

BAY AREA REPORTER

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City Settles with Big \$\$\$ in Elephant Walk Police Attack

Supervisors Hold Secret Vote, Louise Renne Only Known "Yes" Vote

by Brian Jones

The city last week paid \$139,500 to the plaintiffs in the police brutality lawsuit which arose from the "White Night" riot on Castro Street in 1979.

The case was settled out of court on Wednesday, February 8, when city officials gave checks to the ten complainants. A tentative settlement was quietly reached last May, but the settlement didn't win final approval from the Board of Supervisors until last month.



Castro Street's Elephant Walk needed a facelift after SFPD bashed doors, windows, and heads. This week the city picked up the tab for the police riot. (Photo: Rink)

Don McLean/Lori Shannon Dead at 44

by Allen White

Lori Shannon, possibly the classiest and sassiest female impersonator to come out of the Tenderloin, is dead. The man, Donald McLean, 44, died last Saturday night at Mission Emergency Hospital reportedly following a heart attack.

In a short period of just fifteen years, McLean had run the gamut from Tenderloin nightclub to a three-time feature on "All in the Family" to Finocchio's on Broadway to acclaim as a writer, director and choreographer.

Lori Shannon was one of a small group of talented drag queens who shared part of an entertainment era in the late Sixties and early Seventies in San Francisco's Tenderloin. When Donald McLean brought his character of Lori Shannon to San

Francisco in 1968, there were such nightspots as the 181 Club, The Frolic Room, and the Chez Paris with a stage and a mike.

Pat Montclair was the featured entertainer at the 181 Club. Montclair said that he

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"It's a big relief," said George Scott, one of those who sued the city. "When it finally came through, I thought, it's about time — Dan White's already out of jail."

Scott, who owns Designer Optics at 2324 Market St., walked into the Castro Street melee the night of May 21-22, 1979, and was injured when clubbed in the head outside the Elephant Walk bar at 18th and Castro Streets.

"I saw all the lights and walked over to see what was going on. It was about midnight; I was standing at the front door. Suddenly about ten policemen got in a huddle with their clubs in the air — I tried to head down 18th toward the Badlands, but one cop hit me on the back of the head."

Scott was unconscious for 12 hours. He awoke the next day in San Francisco General Hospital with stitches in the back of his head.

Scott and seven other individuals won awards ranging from \$6,500 to \$26,000. The Elephant Walk and an insurance

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Unanimous Vote

Supes Throw Out Police Changes for Sex Clubs

Hongisto Leads Opposition; Chides PD for "Blue Nose" Tactics

"Nobody's upset but the Police Department," Supervisor Richard Hongisto urged this week as police attorney "Law" Wilson attempted to further restrict activity in adult sex theaters. Hongisto suggested that if such activity is bothering the police "maybe they shouldn't go down there and watch." After three hearings, the Board of Supervisors' Public Protection Committee (which included Hongisto and Supervisors Doris Ward and Willie Kennedy) tabled the police maneuver to change the police code. The vote was 3 to 0.

In an attempt to get committee approval, the police had dropped several restrictions last month. In the end, the Police Department was asking for only two changes: A prohibition of all tipping and an allowance for the police chief to close such theaters for alleged illegal activity.

Attorney Wilson, a well-



Hearts and flying cupids were out in force this week. This pair shared heart-shaped lollipops at the "In the Name of Love" party at the Gift Center. (Photo: Rink)

Packed house at Lesbian motherhood conference — Dianne Gregory p. 2

John Wahl wants to be the city's Gay supervisor — Dion Sanders p. 3

Delegate selection challenge at Toklas meeting — Bruce Pettit p. 13

Gays in Black History: Bessie Smith and Bayard Rustin — Dion Sanders pp. 14-15

Expanded Greater Bay News with new newsman John Wetzel pp. 17-18

owners of the O'Farrell Theater (the Mitchell Brothers) and The Palace, a Tenderloin theater. The businesses are attempting to retain their licenses after arrests were made on their premises.

Police vice officers have spent considerable time in adult theaters featuring live entertainment. They have alleged that

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Overflow Crowd Turns Out for Lesbian Motherhood

by Dianne Gregory

Jane, the 35-year-old Lesbian mother of Samantha, a 6-year-old conceived by donor insemination, is killed in a car accident. Her parents, whom she has not been in contact with since she left home at 18, find out they have a granddaughter when they come into town for the funeral and sue for custody of the child over Debby, Jane's lover of ten years and co-parent to Samantha. Debby tries valiantly to retain custody of the child but loses in court because the judge decides Samantha would be better off with blood relatives. Jane's parents take Samantha to Quapaw, Oklahoma, and she never sees Debby again.



Women's Fertility Conference press panel: (l. to r.) Roberta Achtenberg (Lesbian Rights Project), Cheryl Jon (Lesbian mother), Kay Taylor (obstetrician). (Photo: Rink)

Sandy, a 28-year-old Lesbian, makes arrangements to inseminate herself at home with the sperm of Jack, a Gay male who is a friend of a friend. After Bobby is born, Jack wants to see the baby and when Sandy resists sue for paternity rights. The judge grants a declaration of paternity and limited visitation rights even though Jack is a virtual stranger to Sandy and she has already devised a parenting plan with Carol, her lover of seven years. Meanwhile, Jack's parents find out about Bobby, and delighted that the son they thought would never have children has actually produced an heir, get into the act. They also sue for visitation rights and win. Then they begin to make noises about suing for custody of Bobby on the grounds that Sandy is an unfit mother because of her relationship with Carol, all before Bobby is a year old.

These are but two of the potential legal nightmares a Lesbian can encounter when she decides to have a child through donor insemination. Both of the (fictitious) cases posed above are also largely avoidable. If Jane had left a will naming Debby as legal guardian to Samantha, she would have had a good chance of winning the custody battle with Jane's parents. And if Sandy lived in California and received the sperm through a licensed physician by an anonymous donor, or had made a legal contract with Jack stipulating that he had no parental rights and had paid him for his sperm, she probably could have denied Jack any paternity rights. Jack's parents' case would never have gotten into court.

These and other legal, medical, and social problems associated with Lesbians choosing to have children via donor insemination were the topics at a conference attended by more than 300 people last weekend in San Francisco. The conference was the first of its kind anywhere and grew out of a multi-disciplinary study group made up of Lesbian mothers, co-parents, attorneys, physicians, social psychologists, and health care workers. What was intended to be a one-time meeting evolved into a year-long

seminar, and the idea of a conference to provide a forum for the education of Lesbian parents, prospective Lesbian parents, and others was born. It was also hoped the conference would provide not only an opportunity to exchange information and ideas among a larger group, but also to help create an information and support network among Lesbians choosing motherhood, according to a report written by the multi-disciplinary study group.

From the sheer numbers of people attending the conference, the study group seems to be a long way towards achieving its goal. Christine Stockton of the Lesbian Rights Project, one of the co-sponsors of the conference, said more than 100 people had to be turned away from the conference because of lack of space, and the large auditorium where the conference convened was full to overflowing. The conference was attended mostly by women with a sprinkling of men, most notably the Gay Men's Parenting Group.

Most of the women came because they were contemplating having a child, but many had children with them. Childcare was provided, and when one woman brought her infant into the lecture hall, his cries were looked upon with indulgence by the rest of the group. At the same time, a man waited outside to pick up his child by insemination so he could care for him while his mother was at the conference. Both the woman with the infant and the man picking up his son obviously loved and cared for their children, and both fell squarely outside what the Moral Majority wants to protect when it talks about the American Family.

That is the crux of the issue and one of the reasons the conference was held. For the most part, Lesbians and Gay men are perceived by the general public as being incapable of reproduction, and the medical profession, the courts, the schools, and other social institutions need to be educated about new kinds of family configurations. This theme was reiterated throughout the afternoon. For example, would Debby have had to give up

custody of Samantha to Jane's parents if she were Samantha's stepfather? Probably not. And if Sandy and Carol were husband and wife, Jack would probably have been laughed out of court had he tried to assert his paternity rights.

Because of this lack of knowledge and understanding on the part of social institutions, both within the Gay community and outside of it, and its sometimes tragic consequences, Lesbian mothers feel threatened.

"We live in a country that is at best nonsupportive of children and at worst hostile," said Donna Hitchens, attorney at the Lesbian Rights Project, during her keynote address. She added that the hostility is more intense if the child's mother is a Lesbian or otherwise falls outside the nuclear family model.

An example of the apprehension created by this hostility was the treatment of the media at the conference. Reporters were invited, but were restricted to attending the keynote address and two workshops, one for legal professionals and the other for medical professionals, both held at the same time. The reporters, mostly from the Gay press, were also required to wear yellow badges with "Press" written on them so that conference attendees would not be unknowingly quoted.

"We live in fear (of a court battle) and threat on a constant basis," said Diane Jones, one of the facilitators of the legal professionals workshop and the mother of a 4-year-old daughter by donor insemination.

But at the same time more and more Lesbians are opting to have children. Both the Lesbian Rights Project and the Lyon-Martin Clinic have reported a marked increase in the number of callers requesting information or services relating to donor insemination, according to the reports issued by the multi-disciplinary study group. The number of people attending the conference backs up that assertion.

"Being a single mother has come to be accepted by society," said Roberta Achtenberg, directing attorney of the Lesbian Rights Project. "Lesbian mothers are just on the border." ■

John Wahl Throws Hat in Supervisors' Ring

Gay Attorney Blasts AB-1 Foe, Lays Out Issues



Attorney John Wahl announced for supervisor this week. He is seen here with Rev. Jim Sandmire and the Gay/Lesbian congregation of the Golden Gate MCC.

by Dion B. Sanders

With two dozen well-wishers looking on at City Hall wearing sky-blue campaign buttons (the same colors used by Harvey Milk) John E. Wahl announced Tuesday that he is a candidate for a seat on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

At the same time, he blasted State Senator H. L. Richardson (R-Arcadia) for his virtually single-handed stopping of AB-1 and labeling him "the Number One target" for defeat in next year's state elections.

"I'm running because I think that people in general feel that they don't get the kind of representation that they should have in San Francisco," the 50-year-old attorney for the Harvey Milk estate told reporters at a press conference outside the Registrar of Voters office.

Asked where his base of sup-

He played it coy, however, when asked whom he supports for President.

Although Wahl is Gay and has a natural constituency in the Gay community, he intends to obtain support, for example, from the religious community through his work with the San Francisco Night Ministry and as a member of the board of directors of the San Francisco Council of Churches, and also from the Black community, having led the effort to bring home the victims of the Jonestown Massacre in Guyana.

Over 600 of the 912 people who died in Guyana were Black.

ISSUES: HOUSING, MUNI, JOBS

Outlining his self-described "populist" campaign platform, Wahl listed affordable housing (he supports rent control) improvement of the Muni (he called for greater responsibility on the part of Muni management and the need to avoid a fare increase next April) and a better economic climate to create jobs as the three most important issues confronting the city.

On issues of particular concern to the Gay community, Wahl told the *Bay Area Reporter* that Senator Richardson, whose threat to put up money and candidates to run against every senator who votes for AB-1 has all but stopped the bill dead in its tracks, should himself be targeted for defeat next year.

"It's time for progressive and populist people to put up a lot of money and a candidate to defeat Senator Richardson," he said.

"It's time that the people in Arcadia be educated as to how Senator Richardson does not serve their interests, but rather an archaic, fundamentalist interest that does not represent the mainstream of Christianity."

Wahl also supports the proposal by Supervisor Harry Britt to strengthen San Francisco's existing Gay Rights ordinance to eliminate the exemption from its employment discrimination provisions of businesses employing five or fewer people.

On the other hand, Wahl criticized the section of Oakland's newly-enacted Gay Rights ordinance that does not exempt religious organizations from its anti-

discrimination provisions, on the grounds that it violates the First Amendment's guarantees on freedom of religion.

Wahl opposes the Guichard Initiative that would reduce the number of supervisors from eleven to seven — an initiative that its sponsor, Robert Guichard, admits is aimed at ridding the board of its two most liberal members, Britt and Carol Ruth Silver.

A native of Red Bluff who grew up in the East Bay, Wahl, in addition to his law practice, is a volunteer judge pro tem of the San Francisco municipal court.

He is a member of the congregation at Golden Gate Metropolitan Community Church, whose pastor, the Rev. James E. Sandmire, is Wahl's campaign treasurer.

Larry Hughes, longtime aide to State Senator Milton Marks (R-SF) and a senate consultant, is Wahl's campaign manager.

Wahl hopes to raise a minimum of \$100,000 for his campaign.

He becomes the fourth Gay candidate to run for the 11-member Board. Lesbian/Gay Health Services Coordinator Pat Norman and incumbent Supervisor Harry Britt announced their candidacies last fall. Attorney Dave Wharton is also running again.

Asked whether his candidacy is aimed at unseating Britt, Wahl replied that "there is room for two Gay supervisors on the Board, and perhaps three."

"I'm not in this race to run against anybody," Wahl said, although he concedes that in order to be elected, one of the six incumbents — Britt, Silver, Quentin Kopp, John Molinari, Willie Kennedy, or Louise Renne — would have to be ousted. ■

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Don McLean/Lori Shannon

(Continued from page 1)



Aribald Don McLean with his favorite weapon — a live mike. (Photo: Rink)

remembers seeing a fabulous talent when Lori Shannon joined the show. They began what was to be a fifteen-year friendship. Over on Ellis Street, Charles Pierce was performing at the Gilded Cage. Pierce reminisced of the days when Lori Shannon would appear and win special "talent nights" held at the club.

Carl Berry, the director of the Closet Ball, first remembers the entertainer from the Chez Paris club in the Tenderloin. He said those were "the formative years" for Donald McLean. McLean was also a writer and director as well as an entertainer. With Jose he performed the Rosalind Russell role in *Wonderful Town* at the Italian Village. In that show he was also the Assistant Director. His writing talents surfaced as he began to write for the *Bay Area Reporter*. He left the *Reporter* in 1978 and then went to other Gay newspapers. He did theater, film, and nightclub reviews. His copy was typically clever and campy. He knew what he liked and what he didn't. He was a great booster of show biz.

During those early years, Allan Lloyd was performing with Jae Stevens, Little Jimmy,

and Steve Miller in the back room of the *P.S. Restaurant. Lloyd, who became one of Donald McLean's closest friends, remembers "The Highlights," "That show," he said, "was the first big hit for Lori Shannon."

Services for Don McLean

Wednesday, February 22, 7:30 p.m.

Neptune Society Columbarium
1 Lorraine Court
between Anza and Geary off Arguello
directly behind the Coronet Theater

The show was staged and totally produced by the entertainer at the Country Club, now known as Le Domino Restaurant.

It was during that time that Donald McLean began to experience San Francisco's growing Gay community. In those days there was no Gay Castro and Polk Street was just kicking into full gear. The Tenderloin was where the real Gay action was to be found.

In the world of drag queens,

Lori Shannon was a female impersonator. He used to say the "difference between a drag queen and a female impersonator is that a drag queen can't have a baby and a female impersonator doesn't want one."

He had a caustic wit and a sense of timing that could cut like a knife. With this was a confident knowledge of theater and entertainment. The components created a force that friends said overshadowed a deep, sensitive person. Carl Berry commented that the sensitive, shy Donald McLean was many times hurt by the Gay establishment. To others he was not always an easy person to deal with. It was that hurt which led McLean to choose the option of veering, for many years, to straight friends and away from the Gay community.

In 1975, Lori Shannon hit the stage of the world famous Finocchio's. It was the beginning of a love-hate relationship that would last until the spring of last year. Eve Finocchio said, "Lori Shannon was one of the best stand-up comics ever to play the club." Her husband Joe, who 48 years ago moved the nightery to its current Broadway location, agreed with the assessment. Mrs. Finocchio said the entertainer was "absolutely terrific with sensational timing."

The club has an international reputation as one of the finest female impersonator clubs in the world. With the passing of Lori Shannon, Eve Finocchio remembered some of the major stars that performed. She remembered Walter Hart, John Jonas and Frank Duran, the



Glamor with a tart tongue — Lori Shannon. (Photo: Eddie Van)

at the 1177 Club. The show was an opportunity for McLean to put all his talents to work. He directed and choreographed the musical revue. He had told several people that he was most proud of this show. Club manager Scott Harrison said the successful show will continue.

Last spring, the producers of the Closet Ball were successful in getting Donald McLean to star in the annual event. As Lori Shannon, he continually captivated the audience with his sensational presentation. This year, Robert Michael Productions had anticipated the return of Lori Shannon to the Closet Ball.

A. White

Old Bags from Oakland, and Lester LaMonte, the paper fashion plate. Like Lori Shannon, they're gone now. But like Lori Shannon, they will all be remembered by Mrs. Finocchio.

With the nostalgia, Eve Finocchio remembers Lori Shannon as being "his own person." Translated, that means they had many a time arguing over what was right for the show. "When he made up his mind he stuck to it and I respect him for that," she said. Stick to it he did! Allan Lloyd told of the times when management at Finocchio's would tell him to cut out a joke he particularly liked. "He would fix them," Lloyd said, "by turning around the next night and telling the joke twice."

One of the thousands who saw Lori Shannon at Finocchio's was television producer Norman Lear. He created the part of Beverly LaSalle for Don McLean in the "All in the Family" Show.

Charles Pierce remembers being invited to the taping of the show at CBS in Hollywood. At the time, Pierce was appearing at the Cabaret in Los Angeles. During the show, Archie Bunker forgot Ms. LaSalle was a man and gave her a big kiss. Charles Pierce remembers Donald McLean as being excellent in the show. Beverly LaSalle was a brief lift for the show; on her third appearance she was killed off trying to protect Archie Bunker's son-in-law from a mugger.

One of McLean's proudest accomplishments was the show ... and *Lyrics by Johnny Mercer*, which recently opened



In a recent publicity shot, Don McLean. Either inside a wig or a cap, he was always on. (Photo: Eddie Van)



Lori Shannon in beads, bangles, and barbs, MC'ing a show. (Photo: Rink)

BAY AREA REPORTER

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VIEWPOINT

LETTERS

AWARDS, AWARDS, AWARDS

AWARDS . . . AWARDS . . .

The 10th annual Cable Car awardings are now behind us as the folks at Dignity are gearing up to do their own awarding at their annual awards banquet later this month. A week previous, Golden Gate Business folk awarded their annual awardees their monstrous silver-plated loving cups. There followed upon a string of club members awarded for being good club members.

Some days prior to that Gay Games '86 (which has dubbed itself "Triumph '86," outstripping the Cable Car's more modest "Outstanding") tied up some unraveled strings. To kick off . . . end up . . . a press conference, they awarded awards to two of the '82 extravaganza who were not on board for '86 . . . yet. And nobody out-awards the Games.

Not surprisingly, success inspires imitators, and in December a new entry nudged its way into the crowded field. The David Society passed out some 44 awards to some four times as many nominees. Nominees alone could have filled a banquet hall. Selectees were just about everybody, anybody, and nobody. Selectors were society members. For a number of Cable Car categories, one has to buy a ticket to vote. Avid seekers after the tokens press family and friends to buy and vote.

Not to miss the boat, the political clubs are masters of the art of commanding. They command smooth PR people who command the club. They command headline-grabbers, color in the rainbow coalition, and command sundry politicians for favors rendered and dubious reputations.

But the politicians are by a long leg the masters of the art of commanding. They go nowhere — regardless of minor import — minus a framed commendation. Ex-Supe Lee Dolson carried the craft to its ultimate tickle when he was sending commendations to everyone who died in San Francisco. He took the names out of the obituary column; his staff took the addresses out of the phone book. Bubble blew when two people popped up with the same name — and the live one got the dead man's scroll.

What are we to make of it all? On the one hand, if it all were but a camp, nothing more need be said than it's but another way to spindle an evening. Some of the community's earlier awards nights were that and nothing more. But when we get to the point where we begin to believe that the categories, which claim to purport one person is less equal than another, mean something — what are we falling for?

In chiding awards, one rattles a fast-solidifying community sacred cow. Let's not let the lead in our pants thicken too stolidly.

Dull banquets are bad enough. Over-awarding, we expose dull wits and dim the senses.

Paul Lorch

Starting next issue the *Bay Area Reporter* will begin carrying a column from Washington, DC, by Larry Bush. The column will run weekly and will be its only appearance in Northern California.

Bush, a long-time observer in the nation's capital, is one of the brightest lights in the national Gay movement.

B.A.R.
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Gertrude Stein
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Stops

* A bank is a post office is a bus stop.

LETTERS

Olympic Pervert

★ I fear that both Truman and Armistead may dislocate their spines writhing in envy at the news, but due, in the Committee's words, to my "years of tireless service to gymnasts, swimmers and assorted other athletes of all nations" (not to mention my famous and surprisingly economical "team rates"), I have been named the Official Pervert of the 1984 Summer Olympics. I am not ashamed to admit that I am humbly proud.

Strange de Jim
San Francisco

Missed the Magic



★ Not wishing to dispute the freedom of a reviewer's license to call it as he/she sees and hears, finds me in a dilemma of reaction to John Karr's personal critique of Sylvester's show at the Castro Theatre. Two subtly negatives of "what else is new" re: costume and glamour, and pulling the crowd to its feet, IS NEW every time it happens, not only just because it happens, but because Sylvester creates that extra something new and exciting that causes that reaction.

Karr's feeling that the 10 Year Retrospect was somewhat unfulfilled because of the lack of "Blackbird" and "Steel Yard Blues" (a song never recorded or performed by Sylvester) must be countered with a career producing 10 albums and some 50-60 songs! A retrospective taken so literally to please the most avid fan or reviewer would probably last a good 12 hours. And so we had to pick and choose, all the while knowing there would be many individual favorites we couldn't fit in a 2 1/2 hour format. The retrospective was a concept to highlight not only the songs, but Sylvester's many styles. He gave you old, new, disco classics, blues, gospel and rock. And he gave costume, staging, or chestnut and magic to every arrangement, to every song, to every single note he sang. The band and orchestra were phenomenal, and Sylvester himself was never in better voice and presence. Grammy Award-slickness and record sales were the furthest things from our objectives, both in any case inconsequential to a concert at the Castro Theatre. This was truly a labor of love for our friends and supporters, here in our home city. And I believe this concert was the star's "Stand Up and Sing" and the audiences natural response to "Stand Up and Dance."

I am Sylvester's manager, and probably naturally assume a defensive stance. But when I know that a magnificent performance was given, and when I read glowing and exuberant reviews of such in the straight press, I am distressed and saddened by a review in the Gay press that misses the whole reality of an immense talent and performance.

So what else is new? — we're climbing higher and higher. Reviews like John Karr's may sting because maybe we expect more insight. You, that were there at the show, who bought tickets and danced in the aisles, are the real critics, and you obviously loved it all, old and new.

Tim McKenna
San Francisco

Bitch of the Year

★ The Cable Car Awards need one more category — Outstanding Bitch of the Year. The winner, hands down — Woolly of B.A.R.

His party circuit article was state of the art bitchery. I loved it.

David Easton
San Francisco

Wild About Woolly

★ Who is Woolly/Bob Woolhouse? What does he look like? Most of your other writers get their pictures in the paper from time to time, but not him.

I heard a rumor that he is a member of one of the local ballet companies. He doesn't sound like a ballet dancer to me. Not with such sardonic articles like "Short Circuit on the Party Circuit."

Does he write for some of the Las Vegas comics under a different name? He's got that slick, laugh-on-laugh technique, kind of Joan Rivers.

Toby LeFevre
San Francisco

One More for Woolly

★ Your resident humorist and rhymster, Woolly is not politically correct. He is disinclined to capitalize the word Gay.

Still he gets more laughs in 25 words or less than most writers of comedy do in 2500. So chalk one up for politically incorrect.

Al Petrew
Mill Valley

Date Correction

★ In Dion Sander's recent article "1983: The Year Some Minority Gays Came Out," he mentioned that the San Francisco Human Rights Commission was releasing "its report on race discrimination in employment in the city's Gay bars by the end of February." The date for the report has always been by the end of March. The report is extensive and includes resource lists and guides for voluntary affirmative action.

Please make a correction in the B.A.R. to that effect. Thank you.

Jackie Winnow
Lesbian/Gay Community Liaison
SF Human Rights Commission

Personal Indulgence On Every Side

★ I am so tired of words, of denial and of our brothers dying.

I am so bored with politics, who likes whom and who doesn't.

I am so angry at the Catacombs' ad which tells us to call them if we know of someone with AIDS attending there, and I'm angry at my next-door neighbor who believes he is safe because he doesn't go to clubs and baths and because he checks people's bodies when he takes them home.

I am so stunned by people who think that if they get people known to have AIDS out of the baths, or sleep only with healthy-looking people, that they are safe.

I am scared by people who talk of closing the baths as a first step in saving our lives.

I am pissed at people telling me safe sex isn't as much fun and that they don't wear a condom because it's not as pleasurable. (Neither is watching someone covered with lesions dying on a respirator.)

I could duke when I hear people say they can spot people who have AIDS, who think people with AIDS are identifiably (physically or psychologically) different or when I hear people say that because they have been primarily monogamous, have had only eleven life-time partners, are vegetarian, work out daily, are spiritually enlightened and take vitamins that they are immune to AIDS.

I could cry over my inability to reach you, shake you and help you understand that regardless of how sexually active or inactive you have been it is time to start relating to all sexual partners and to yourselves as potential AIDS carriers. It is time to stop pretending that you're immune or he's immune because you're both good looking or you have never been sick or you have already been exposed.

It is time to get support from your friends, to stop saying, "What's one more risky sexual act?" It's time to talk with everyone you have sex with about the fact that many of us are dying and that the number of AIDS diagnoses is increasing, not decreasing.

It is time to start caring about yourself and each other by being assured that when we love and have sex with one another we do it in a safe, conscious and non-deadly manner.

Jim Geary
Executive Director, Shanti Project

ED. NOTE: Some questions it seems you don't ask: why should the actions of others cause you such upset and stress? Why should it make one want to 'puke if they can't run another's life?' And as part of a group who has voluntarily made its mission to minister — and also earns its living in the process — that certain people aren't doing what you want them to. If you can't abide that, who needs a re-evaluation, they or you?

P. Lorch

Move Out On Vitamin C

★ At Christmas I sent a letter of appeal to the San Francisco Gay community hoping to start a campaign of Vitamin C contributions against AIDS. It fell on sadly deaf ears. I'll try once more:

I enclose a letter I sent to the patients of the AIDS ward at San Francisco General Hospital, enclosing various kinds and dosages of C. If we could just save some lives in Ward 5B, it would be worth this small effort. Could not all the Gay bars in San Francisco put out a basket, and collect C in all its forms? When a substantial amount is collected, simply put it in a padded mailbag addressed to AIDS Ward, SF General Hospital and post or simply deliver it there to the reception desk. Would you bartenders think that it was asking too much to just keep track of the C? There but for the Grace go we!

And with the disclosure by Dr. Cathcart in a recent B.A.R., that the Vitamin C campaigns against AIDS has moved from San Francisco to New York — in other words, with pride — we can say it started here.

I would like to congratulate B.A.R. for publishing such fine full page feature stuff on the advance of the miracle of C therapy against this dreaded sickness. I suppose it goes without saying that it would be extremely useful to us all if the public were made aware of the wonderful efforts being performed by the Gay community volunteer services in Ward 5B.

M. H. Murphy
San Francisco

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LETTERS

Blank Brain

★ I'd like to thank Billy Blanco for his letter "On Baths and Beauties" in the February 9 issue of *B.A.R.* Mr. Blanco demonstrates more clearly than I ever could the kind of moronic thinking that makes SF life something less than it could be. Billy likes the "socializing" that goes on at the Ritch St. Baths (yea, and I like the scintillating conversation at the Cauldron). Unfortunately Ritch St. isn't working as hard as he'd like to keep out the "undesirables." Not everyone is into white body builders, but Blanco is so lost in his Al Parker fantasies that he'd probably find this shocking news. He also laments the lack of "Show bars" in the city. I've got nothing against drag queens (some of my best friends . . .), but when you find a proliferation of drag bars, you also find a proliferation of oppression, repression, depression, regression. If Blanco misses the drag bars so much, let him go back to Houston (and twenty years in time) where he belongs. That's one less blank brain on the streets of San Francisco.

And by the way, Randy Shilts is fast becoming the Geraldo Rivera of gay journalism. When he and Britt represent me, that's when I move to Houston.

I's time we queers come out against the gays.

Eran Baer
Oakland

Those Shilts Pieces

★ I am surprised that current coverage on AIDS is handled more responsibly by *B.A.R.* than by the *Chronicle*. Last weekend two "analysis" articles by Randy Shilts attempted to resurrect the "controversy" over gay baths which should have died a pitiful and disgusting death after the *California Magazine* article "Whitewash" (with which Mr. Shilts was intimately involved). Unfortunately Mr. Shilts is no more committed to acting responsibly than he is in pursuing journalistic ethics such as verifying his sources and "facts."

Space limitations preclude a thorough analysis of Mr. Shilts' style. One tactic is to assume conclusions which do not exist. For example, we are informed that "authorities agree" or are told we are facing a "significant problem" and "fresh concern" based on such equivocal statements as the following: "This is very strong, presumptive evidence of a parallel." Hardly sufficient to cause "fresh concern," is it?

Several statements ranging from ridiculous to unsupported are brought forward without challenge. One example, "Gay men need to know that if they're going to have promiscuous sex, they won't live very long." Where is the scientific evidence for that conclusion? Another, "... research shows that throughout history public bathhouses have been closed in times of epidemics." (I would be most interested in seeing the research into Gay bathhouses in history and their relation to epidemics. It would also be illuminating to find what definition of "epidemic" was used by this doctor. How many epidemics in history have been defined with 3,329 cases out of a population of well over 200 million?) Third, an alleged forthcoming study is supposed to show that "... people at bathhouses . . . have not come to terms with being gay." Was the sample taken of tourists from Kansas in 1950? In all cases, it is the responsibility of either the "reporter" or the "analyst" to raise the questions. Certainly Mr. Shilts is experienced enough in AIDS and journalism to be more than a stenographer.

Aside from my numerous reservations about these Shilts stories, I do find them useful in two areas. First, the illustration of changes in "Gay Liberation" over the past — say 25 years. From asserting the freedom to be gay we now have a "credible gay leader," Supervisor Harry Britt, joining with Jerry Falwell and saying "Unless gay people do something to change their lifestyle, the inevitable end is going to be government regulation."

Second, the contention of Dr. James Curran is that he is not opposed to bathhouse sex "for moral, ethical or political reasons, but purely from a public health point of view" cannot be accepted from a high official of the Reagan administration. From the first appointment, the Reagan administration has used "public health" to advance right wing political-religious goals. The Surgeon General is a vocal enemy of gay rights. The Reagan administration has used "health" concerns to oppose rights of gays, of women, women's rights to abortion, of individual rights to privacy ("The squeal rule"), and to impose static intervention in the doctor-patient relations (as in the "Baby Doe" cases).

The physical dangers of AIDS are no doubt terrifying. However, the real and lasting danger is that AIDS can so willingly be used for opportunistic, manipulative and repressive purposes. The social consequences of the unchecked spread of this hysteria will be far more damaging in the long run.

Jerry Jansen
San Francisco

On Catacombs Ideas

★ I was both angered and perplexed by the ad ran by Fred of the Catacombs. In his ad he refers to people with AIDS as "them." Does he think that people with AIDS are no longer part of the Gay community? Does he think that people with AIDS should be registered? Should there be a billboard on Eighteenth and Castro with pictures and names declaring who has AIDS?

I am not defending people with AIDS that openly exchange body fluids at the baths, but I do not think this type of advertising is called for. Has Fred ever considered that his club is a cradle for the spread of many types of diseases? Has Fred ever read that fisting and heavy butt play that is most often done at his club is in the high risk category for spread of AIDS? If Fred was so concerned with the welfare of his patrons wouldn't he close his pocket book and close his club, instead of underhandedly complaining about how his business has probably slacked off because of AIDS. We all need to be concerned about AIDS, but not in the manner he suggests.

Jerald Moore
San Francisco

On Our Gay Minister

★ Whether Supvr. Harry Britt's ever expanding waistline will soon make him eligible for a "Fat Man of the Board" title, this observer cannot foretell. What could be the cause of such disgusting, unhealthful obesity in a supposedly Gay supervisor. Sexual frustration? Using food as a substitute?

Perhaps so, in view of Harry the Bluenose Reindeer's latest "diktat" re closing down the baths. How he and Bluenose Shilts differ in this respect from the Moral Majority's pronouncements is impossible to discern. They seem the same. The sooner this anti-sexualist, neo-puritan preacher is retired from the board, the better off we'll be in the long run, guys. Let him start a new church. He'd be happier haranguing his flock from a pulpit.

Reed Vernon
San Francisco

Another Falcon Flub

★ Back some time ago your paper did a article about porno films in which it mentioned Falcon Studios as being trustworthy. That when you ordered a film from them you would receive it and if anything was wrong they would gladly replace it.

Unfortunately for me they are not trustworthy. I ordered a film from them back in December 1982. After waiting two months for delivery I wrote to them and got no response. I made two phone calls and was put on hold each time and finally had to hang up because no one came back to the phone. Finally, after many letters and six months later, I did receive a video pac and thought I had my film only to discover I had received a bad film with only snow in the picture and a garbled sound track. I have written eighteen letters to them trying to get it replaced but they have not responded at all.

I know that you are not responsible for this, but I think you should know that Falcon does not back the film that they sell as your article indicated; at least they didn't in my case.

Bill Taylor
Palm Desert, CA

Take a Lesbian to Lunch

★ Re: Jim Thompson's "On the Toklas Warpath, B.A.R., February 9.

Allow me to climb up on my soapbox and respond to your sour letter about Lesbians invading male territory. Do I detect a little misogyny, dear? Or is it just that your male ego is so delicate that the presence of a woman (note the spelling) will deflate it? Your diatribe about the Detour sounds like the adult equivalent of the "no girls allowed" tree fort of little boys.

Your sour grapes remarks about Amelia's aren't very credible, either. Some facts would help. Yes, you mentioned that your friend was denied access to their bathroom, but I wonder if there isn't more to the story. The last time I was at Amelia's, not only was I allowed to use the men's bathroom repeatedly (it was those beers!), but two bartenders bought me drinks and I met some friendly women. True, I went with a woman; but if I'd acted like an asshole, I would have been treated as such, female friend or no.

I suspect the Toklas women are making a point, rather than trying to take over the Detour. As you say, it's a cruise bar, and I can't imagine much happening there that would be of interest to Lesbians. But they should be allowed to enter if they wish. It's the practice of discriminatory carding the women object to, not the predominantly male atmosphere. Once the hoopla dies down, and something is (or isn't) done about the situation, you'll probably find things pretty much the way they used to be regarding the gender balance.

So lighten up, honey. Lesbians are not the enemy. If you're up for jousting at windmills, there are more worthwhile targets. Try dealing with the discrimination our fellow Gay men perpetrate on each other for starters. Make sure your own closet is free of skeletons before you start snooping into others'.

In fact, I suggest we make this Take a Lesbian to Lunch Week. You might find one who's actually human. After all, they don't bite — unless provoked.

Peter Keanie
San Francisco

LETTERS

No Mail in Florida

* I am a prisoner in the state of Florida. A friend of mine gave me this address, saying I could possibly get a free listing published in your publication. I would really be appreciative if I could get my ad published so I could get some mail in this lonely place.

"W/M, 40 yrs. old, race: Gypsy, black hair, brown eyes, 5'11", 160 lbs., weightlifter, bike rider, horseback riding, reading, fishing, listening to country/ western music, who is looking for a few friends who will write to a guy that's been down for three years without any mail and who needs a little support from the rest of the human race. Please write.

Roger Ricks
#541217 - CCCI
P.O. Box 1500
Cross City, FL 32628

P.S. Please put "Box 646" in the left lower corner of the envelope. Thank you.

Two Open-Minded in Indiana

* My name is Mike and I am interested in corresponding with all open-minded gays. I feel that it is time to start sharing my life with someone special. I am 6'2" and weigh 215#. I have brown hair and brown eyes. I enjoy music, reading, and most of all, working out to keep my body in shape. If you are interested in corresponding with me, please write. All letters answered same day.

Mike Feese, #19291
P.O. Box 30, 19-2C
Pendleton, IN 46064

* * * *

* My name is Randy Utterback and I am interested in corresponding with all open-minded gays. I am 26, 5'9", and weigh around 160 pounds. I've got brown hair and hazel eyes. I am tired of hustlers and the games they play. I'm ready to share my life with someone special. Are you that someone? Write and let's find out. Please include a stamp.

Randy Utterback, #4427
P.O. Box 30, 1-1D
Pendleton, IN 46064

Sincere Gays Wanted

* I am presently incarcerated in the Florida Prison system, and am in great need of correspondence. I was wondering if there was any way you could place an ad in your publication for me. It would be greatly appreciated. I am G/W/M, blonde hair, blue eyes, 130 lbs, 25 years old and would like to hear from other sincere Gays.

David Shaw #037759
P.O. Box 747
Starke, FL 32091

Gay Short Timer in San Luis

* I am currently incarcerated at the California Men's Colony in San Luis Obispo. I would greatly appreciate it if you could print a pen pal ad for me. Thank you and Happy New Year!

GWM 24 is looking for blonds! I am 6 ft tall, weigh 175 lbs., have light brown hair and sexy hazel eyes. I get out August and want to settle down with a special guy.

I am not writing this ad so I can find someone to support me. I am financially secure. I am college educated and my interests include music, drama, dancing, playing sports (both indoor and outdoor!) and having a good time.

James Bayt, C-18132
P.O. Box A-1215
San Luis Obispo, CA 93409

Ohio Gay

* I'm a prisoner in Ohio. I'm Gay and very much in need of a friend who'll help me through this experience. I will appreciate it immensely if you'll print my ad. Thank you.

Gay Ohio prisoner, needs Gay friends. Write if sincere (no exploitations please). I have no one. Need your help to get through this trying experience. 6' 2", 200 lbs., light brown hair, 28 years old, hazel eyes. Please send photo.

James Vanest, #172525
P.O. Box 45699
Lucasville, OH 45699-0001

Men Only in Starke

* I am twenty-seven years old and I am bisexual and would like to correspond with males only. I am incarcerated in Florida State Prison. I am getting released in 1985. I would appreciate it very much if you would put my ad in your paper. Thank you

Arthur North, #061729
J-1-N-15
P.O. Box 747
Starke, FL 32091

One More in Florida

* At the present time I am incarcerated at Marion Correctional Institution here in Florida and through another inmate I received your address. Now I am writing to you in the hope that you can be of assistance and help to me and the favor that I would ask.

I am a Gay (bi-sexual) male and would like to find someone but hopefully that special person whereby I can obtain a friendship via correspondence, and maybe we can develop where we would have a relationship upon my release which is shortly. I was informed that by writing you it might be possible to have an ad placed in the *Bay Area Reporter*.

I am a white male, blue eyes, brown hair, medium build, looking for friendship and possible relationship. I'm sincere, warm hearted and looking for and needing the special person to share my life and love with. I am interested in music, reading, outdoors, and quiet home evenings.

Arthur L. Wanninger, #012874
G-407N (880)
P.O. Box 158
Lowell, FL 32663

Floridian Looks for Submissive Gay

* G/W/M, 5' 9", 185 lbs. body builder, blue eyes, 25 years old, black hair. Seeking a friendship and hopefully to build a relationship for when I'm released. I'm mainly interested in a "Very" Submissive Gay who enjoys a little S&M!

Thank you in advance for your time and trouble for printing my ad. I'm very grateful and confident that my ad will get a beautiful response.

Danny R. Martin
#086852-Bx 249
Cross City Institution
P.O. Box 1500
Cross City, FL 32628

Young British Gay

* I am incarcerated presently in the Florida Department of Corrections and being from England have no family or friends here to write to. I received your address from a friend here who said your paper would place ads for Gay prisoners to receive pen pals.

I would like to place the following ad to receive pen pals in your newspaper:

Young British, G/M, 25, 6' 1", 151 lbs. brown hair and blue eyes who enjoys music, reading, writing and soccer. I'm far from home and need pen pals who enjoy living for tomorrow. Will answer all.

Roy A. McClung, #075434
P.O. Box 699, P-64
Sneads, FL 32460

Imprisoned Gays

* I was reading about Gays in prison. "Many of the Gays in prison want to be there. Many of the crimes are to get back in prison. I am a liberal; I also know there are Gays in prison that don't want to be in prison, but are used like pawns and other pieces."

The problem is to get the "people" out of prison that should not be in prison using the Civil Code and Liberal Principle.

My the way, I've done 5 years in prison and jail for an indecent exposure charge (except 123 days on the run a few times) to a 24 year old woman in February '79. (No relief in sight.)

Bert Cundle
C 07015 CMC "E" D 7-1-88
P.O. Box AE
San Luis Obispo, CA 93409-0003

Tall and Sweet

* I would like to correspond with Gay males. Charles McGuire is my name. I'm 6' 2" tall. I've got blue eyes and blond hair. My weight is 175. My body is fine. I work out with weights. I'm 26 years old. My birthday is October 28, 1957. I need that someone special. Could you be that someone?

Charlie McGuire
P.O. Box 30 34-1J
Pendleton, IN 46064

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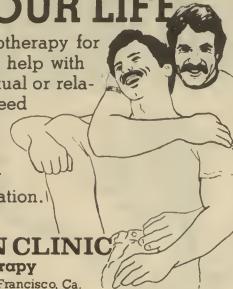
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Milk Attorney, Heir Demand Probe of Rumors on Dan White's Luxury

by Dion B. Sanders

State Attorney General John Van de Kamp was asked yesterday by the longtime lover of slain Gay city Supervisor Harvey Milk and by the attorney representing the Milk estate to investigate TV and radio reports that Dan White is living a life of luxury in a Los Angeles suburb.

It was reported Tuesday night that the convicted assassin of Milk and Mayor George Moscone is living rent-free in a plush 18-room mansion in Bel Air provided by a multi-millionaire movie producer.

Jeffrey Walsworth, the attorney representing a group of conservative Orange County businessmen who had earlier posted a \$10,000 reward for White's whereabouts, told reporters in Los Angeles that the producer (allegedly one of his sponsors and whom he refused to identify) had paid White a \$50,000 advance on an autobiography that the producer wants to make into a movie.

Milk attorney John Wahl, who only the day before announced his candidacy for the Board of Supervisors (see separate story in this issue), said that if Walsworth's claims about the mansion and the book are true, "then White is breaking the law by profiting from his crimes."

Wahl cited the state's Crime Victims' Compensation Law, which mandates that any profits from books, movies or television programs based on the crimes of the author be held for five years in a trust fund, to be later distributed among the surviving relatives of crime victims.

The law, passed in 1980, is patterned after New York's "Son of Sam" statute, so-named for mass-murderer David Berkowitz, who terrorized that city in 1977 by killing six women and wounding two men with a .44-caliber revolver.

Walsworth said that his clients are "more or less taking care of him in that mansion" and that White has been joined by his wife and family.

"I'm not certain how long he (White) will remain at that residence," Walsworth continued, "but he has stated that he intends to return to San Francisco and that nobody is going to stop him from doing that."

White was released last January 6 to Los Angeles County after serving five years for voluntary manslaughter in the November 27, 1978, killings of Moscone and Milk in City Hall, and is barred by state corrections officials from leaving Los Angeles County until his one-year term ends on January 6, 1985.

While White has reportedly

after five years of refusing to show any remorse for the killings — a source of much outrage against White by Gays here — now says that he is "sorry" for the slayings and that they would always cause him "inner turmoil."

The attorney told reporters that White acknowledges the sentence he received as "very lenient," but that he simply took advantage of loopholes in the criminal justice system, "just as any defendant would have done."

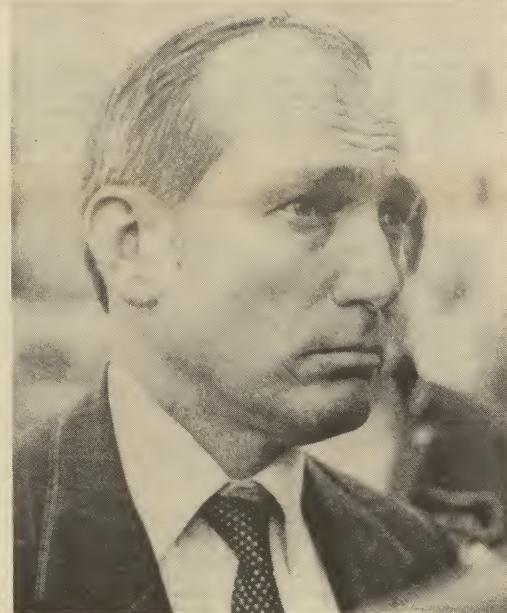
Wahl flatly rejected Walsworth's claim that White is now expressing remorse for the slayings. "It sounds like some public relations people have talked to him and told him to say this kind of thing," he snapped. "If he really felt sorry, he'd be trying to make amends to Gina Moscone and Scott Smith."

Moscone is the widow of the slain mayor. Smith, in addition to being Milk's lover, is also the executor of the Milk estate.

Moscone could not be reached for comment, but Smith was adamant about receiving compensation from White. "He can't make money under the laws of the state of California," he said. "That money has to go into that trust fund."

Smith acknowledged that the law would not apply if White's autobiography did not include any mention of the City Hall slayings, but added that he could not see how any story on White "can be a very salable commodity without including the story of his felonies."

Walsworth said that White,



Harvey Milk estate attorney John Wahl reacts on latest rumor on Dan White's activities in Bel Air. (Photo: Rink)

DAY AND NIGHT DELICIOUS TEMPTATIONS

AIDS Open Forum

A forum titled "AIDS Under Siege" is set for Wednesday, February 22, at 7:30 p.m. The panel will meet at the Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka St. (near 18th).

The panel will answer questions from the audience and will try to clear up some misconceptions concerning AIDS and the treatment of the disease.

Among the panelists will be Dr. Robert Cathcart II, who will discuss the Vitamin C therapies; Dr. Paul Stuetzer on herbal alternatives, and Dr. Paul Volberding, oncologist, Chief of the SF AIDS Ward and Treatment clinic at SF General. Other members of the panel will be introduced that evening.

The event is sponsored by Vibrant Health Center at Noe and Market and admission is free. For further information call 863-6369.

Gay Cops to Help Candidates

Members of our community in Law Enforcement have set up a "hot line" service for Gays/Lesbians interested in making law enforcement a career. They can be reached at (415) 626-3131 on a 24-hour basis.

An officer currently working in law enforcement will return your call. They will be supplying application information on the current Sheriff's Department hiring and future positions available in law enforcement.

Gay Indians Dance

Gay American Indians (GAI) an organization serving Gay Native American Indians in the Bay Area, will be hosting a dance benefit Saturday evening, February 25. The Moe Moea Polynesian Dancers will perform.

Beer, wine, and soft drinks will be sold and light food and snacks served. The event will be held at the Pride Center, 890 Hayes, from 9 p.m. until 1 a.m.. Admission is \$4.

For more information, please call Erna Pahe at 552-1070.

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Toklas Fears Too Few Gay Delegates in July

Club Lays Out 84's Plans

by Bruce Pettit

Alice B. Toklas Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club members Monday night expressed increasing concern that Gay San Franciscans may be sorely underrepresented at this summer's Democratic National Convention in their own city. But two national party officials defended the process by which delegates will be less popularly selected and more candidate handpicked than was the case in the last three presidential election years.



Jeff Jones questions Democratic Party officials on their delegate selection process for the July convention: (l. to r.) Charles Houser, Nancy Pelosi, Lynn Cutler, and Paul Boneberg. (Photo: Rink)

Greg Day, Toklas issues chair, extracted from Nancy Pelosi a pledge that she would morally support any protest that Gays are underrepresented. But she cautioned against any formal challenge to the party's credentials or rules committees, pointing out that the first-tier of aggressive affirmative action belongs only to ethnic minorities, and that Gays are included in a second, less enforceable tier.

Pelosi, the San Franciscan who is a former California party chair and also head of the national compliance review committee that approved state delegate-selection methods, advised that Gays should instead use "political pressure" to win convention seats.

Lynn Cutler, an Iowan who is a vice chair of the Democratic National Committee, said the DNC "had to prove to a skeptical world that we can come to San Francisco and have a convention that demonstrates the mutual respect different kinds of people have for each other." She hopes that won't be disproved.

Cutler said she was part of the 1972 convention that was almost totally dominated by party activists. A Gay-rights plank was rejected, and the issue has become stronger only in succeeding conventions, she contended, as more elected officials have become involved. "Having more elected officials at the convention makes them more responsible to the party and encourages them to buy into what is in the platform."

Pelosi had come to Toklas to encourage its volunteer participation in the city's "Host Committee" for the July convention, but she was diverted into defending delegate selection when Toklas treasurer Jeff Jones suggested that, since 1972, the party has replaced quotas for minorities with "quotas for elected officials." Jones was also riled by intra-party talk that perhaps none of the presidential contenders will proceed with March 11 caucuses — in which activists may express their preferences on

delegates.

Campaign operatives for former Vice President Walter Mondale are set to announce the slate of delegates it would want March 11 caucuses to recommend to him for placement on the June 3 primary ballot. Neil Eisenberg, Mondale's Northern California chair, has said the campaign would not look kindly at any last-minute rush of Mondale's caucuses because he is now the perceived frontrunner. Eisenberg said the tendency would be to exclude anyone who has worked for another candidate in the past year. Ohio Senator John Glenn has already canceled caucuses, branding them a sham because candidates have already decided whom to pick for the ballot.

The city's three Democratic clubs are in a dilemma because, for the past year, they have evinced greater support for Democratic contenders other

than Mondale.

In a last-minute attempt to move in the direction of the perceived winner, Toklas Monday night passed a resolution allowing its officers to "pursue all opportunities to become delegates." The club had previously thought it inappropriate for officers to become too partisan before the club formally endorses — technically restricted until after its umbrella organization, the California Democratic Council, endorses. Monday's move was regarded largely as a gesture to Toklas president Sal Rosselli. Rosselli said his ties to organized labor may still assist him in being slated for Mondale.

Jane Murphy, a long-time party activist, said, "Asking caucuses to confirm (pre-ordained) slates is bunch of baloney." She asked Pelosi if it were true that there may be no caucuses. Pelosi replied, "I have not heard that." Then Pelosi ex-



Police Commissioner Jane Murphy (r.) shows off the commendation from Toklas Demos. On her left is Anne Daley. (Photo: Rink)

plained, "Many candidates find it hard to organize for primaries elsewhere in the country if they have to organize for March 11 caucuses in California."

Rosselli said any canceling of caucuses "is totally unacceptable."

Murphy indicated she intends to rally supporters for herself at a Mondale caucus, even if she has not been slated by campaign insiders.

MURPHY HONORED

Jane Murphy, whom Mayor Feinstein did not reappoint to a third term on the San Francisco Police Commission, was awarded a special plaque from Toklas for her championing of improved Gay-police relations while a commissioner. The club sent a letter to Feinstein expressing its disappointment in not reappointing Murphy, saying, "We have lost our second voice" to Commissioner Jo Daly. The club asked that it be consulted when the mayor makes future decisions affecting the Lesbian and Gay community.

Rosselli, in his president's report, proclaimed that the club executive committee had just experienced a successful weekend retreat to achieve improved intra-club relations and sketch the year's goals. He said officers agreed that Toklas would:

- Issue daily editions of its newsletter, *Alice Reports*, during the five days of the Democratic National Convention. The purpose would be to both inform the local Gay community about convention events and also to inform the international press about "where the Gay rights movement is going . . . We have the potential for educating those who say they have never met a Gay person before."

- Plan a convention reception for Gay delegates and the press. The club is "open to sponsoring this event with other clubs."

- Try to meet with other S.F. Democratic clubs next month to agree upon slating for Democratic County Central Committee elections in June.

- Meet with Mayor Feinstein to urge more Lesbian/Gay appointments and discuss a new draft of domestic-partners legislation to be forthcoming from her special committee on the issue.

In other business, Toklas:

- Welcomed Congressman Barney Frank (D-MA), who announced his House Subcommittee on Immigration this spring will review the policy of exclusion of Gays and others.

- Sent a letter to SF's Chief Administrative Officer, Roger Boas, urging that he instruct Coroner Boyd Stephens to release the effects and clothes of the late Supervisor Harvey Milk to his estate. Stephens is holding the clothes that Milk and Mayor George Moscone were wearing when they died to be able to sustain or refute any new assassination theories.

- Voted additional funding for its Third World Caucus fundraiser March 4 for presidential candidate Jesse Jackson. Rosselli said the lack of a Toklas presidential endorsement permits such activities for any candidate, but an endorsement will later limit activities to events only for that endorsee. Proceeds will be evenly split between the Jackson campaign and Toklas for promoting Third World issues.

- Heard Cleve Jones, Gay aide to Assemblyman Art Agnos, recount the lobbying need for AB-1, the Gay employment rights bill. Jones said State Senator H.L. Richardson (R-Arcadia) has rallied right-wing preachers to kneel in the offices of swing-vote senators as the preachers pray for the bill's defeat.

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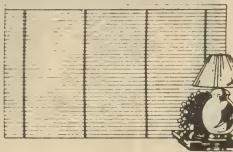
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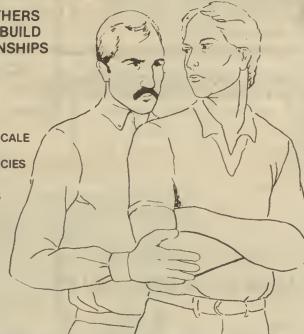
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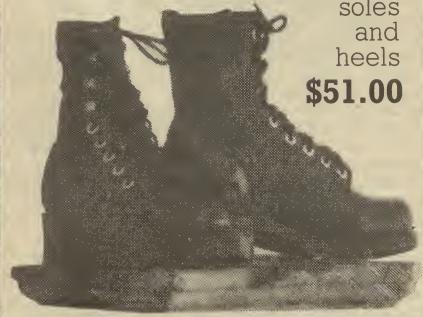
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Expert Says Gays Could Decide NY/Calif in '84

Glenn Anti-Gay Issue Continues to Backfire

by George Mendenhall

Theodore White, author of *The Making of a President*, surprised *New York Times Magazine* readers on February 5 by declaring, "Homosexuals have moved, as a force, into politics. In a close election, the vote of homosexual men and women might swing the results in California and New York." If the noted political analyst is correct, it means that the Gay vote this year could decide the presidential election itself.

"In the civilized tolerance of educated American life," White concluded, "homosexual men and women are accepted by many now as, at worst, merely psychologically handicapped. Majority mores still find their ways repugnant, yet in the large cities where homosexuals cluster, their votes are critical. Closeted for so long, they insist that they be accepted now as they are; and that approval be voiced publicly by one or the other of the great parties."

Only two Democratic presidential candidates have rejected Gay rights, Senator John Glenn and Florida Governor Ruben Askew. Mondale, the frontrunner, has been very public about his approval of national Gay rights legislation.

The July Democratic convention here will have a significant Gay presence — both inside and outside the hall and will receive national media coverage. White points out that the Democrats are aware that they are meeting in "mecca" to the homosexual.

How will the Democrats in authority at the convention react to the Gay presence inside the convention hall? White believes "the Democrats must face them, perhaps permit them onto the floor as homosexuals have so long sought, or repudiate them. And if the Democrats invite them on the floor, then the Republicans will take the alternate stand." Gay rights, he believes, will then become a major issue in the fight for 1984 votes. This could mean that Gay people could deliver California and New York — two crucial states — to the Democratic Party.

GLENN AND GAY RIGHTS

This is the first election in U.S. history that almost all of the candidates from one party have endorsed national legislation to give equality to homosexuals. Senator Glenn, however, running a poor second to leader Walter Mondale in the Democratic race, has continued his rejection of legal equality for Gay people and it has become an issue in the Southern states. His position has also singled him out from the front-runners and brought attention to the subject.

Glenn has stated that while he is strongly in favor of civil liberties and social justice for Gay people, he believes that they should not be given federal security clearances or be allowed to serve in the armed forces. He opposes national legal protection because he believes there must continue to be an allowance for local options so Gay people could be rejected as teachers and in other "sensitive areas."

Several local Democrats have withdrawn their support of Glenn on the Gay issue, including District Attorney Arlo Smith, Supervisor Richard Hongisto, Public Defender Jeff Brown, and Gay activist George Raya. Glenn's New York campaign manager resigned over the Gay rights issue, and the Gay Caucus of the California Democratic Party has called upon the

party to not even consider Glenn because he is "opposed to human rights."

Glenn delegates at the convention will be urged by Gay delegates to reject him on the Gay rights issue alone. National Democratic Party officials will increasingly find it difficult to avoid the issue. Glenn could make it a convention issue to separate himself from Mondale.

The Glenn campaign has not spoken out against one of his major supporters in the South for using the Gay rights issue against Mondale. Sen. Sam Nunn (D-GA) told a Glenn rally recently, "Glenn has the courage to give up his New York state coordinator rather than give up his strongly held moral beliefs that homosexuals should not be role models for the children of this nation." (See separate Glenn story elsewhere in this issue filed

from Atlanta.)

Gay candidates for delegate positions have surfaced across the nation with the public voting on the selections at the June 6 primary. After that date, additional delegates will be appointed, but Gay people do not have to be technically included in this final process. When the openly Gay delegates are determined, a National Gay Caucus will be formed at the convention and lobby as a group for a strong Gay rights platform plank. Bill Kraus, local Gay aide to Rep. Sala Burton, has been appointed to serve on the National Platform Committee.

The Gay presence at the Democratic convention is being assisted by the National Association of Gay and Lesbian Clubs, headquartered in Washington, DC. This organization has 110 member groups in 46 states. ■

Glenn Lets Loose Homophobia in Georgia

by S. Christopher Hagin

Atlanta - Democratic presidential contender John Glenn brought his Gay-baiting campaign here January 20 and picked up the support of Georgia's senior U.S. Senator, Sam Nunn. Nunn said in supporting his Senate colleague, "John Glenn has the courage to give up his New York state chairman rather than his strongly held moral belief that homosexuals should not be the role models for our children."

Glenn in reference to Nunn's statement remarked later the same day, "It's not just role models. You get into matters of military, into intelligence matters, and if you start opening up all these areas and lock them into federal law as to what the acceptability will be for communities that have quite different standards and quite different beliefs than might be prevalent in New York or San Francisco or other places, then I think it goes beyond what was ever intended with Title VII (the equal employment opportunity section of the 1964 Civil Rights Act), and I just disagree with that legislation."

A spokesman in Nunn's Washington office said the senator received few complaints from the Georgia Gay community. Nunn is the ranking Democratic member of the Senate Armed Services Committee and the Permanent Subcommittee of Investigations of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee. The latter was known as the McCarthy Committee in the 1950's. He is expected to win a third term in the Senate without opposition in November.

The spokesman also said Glenn's stand on homosexual issues was a central reason for Nunn's support for the Ohio senator.

Glenn has been plummeting in Georgia public opinion polls since October. Georgia political experts believe former Vice President Walter Mondale will win the state presidential primary here on March 13. Glenn and Chicago civil rights activist Rev. Jesse Jackson are expected to receive a large number of votes in metropolitan Atlanta, where 40 percent of Georgia voters live. Glenn is expected to win several delegates in the south's largest city.

According to Mondale coordinator Chip Carter, son of former President Jimmy Carter, the former vice president has substantial Gay support here. The only other candidate with significant Gay support is California Senator Alan Cranston; however, since becoming a co-sponsor of the Senate Gay civil rights bill, South Carolina Senator Ernest "Fritz" Hollings has been picking up support in Atlanta's Gay community. One of Mondale's sons and Chip Carter are expected to campaign in Gay bars and businesses here. Carter said he or one of the Mondale children expect to address a local Gay organization before the primary.

Glenn's Georgia campaign manager, Tommy Coleman, seeing his candidate's continued loss of Democratic Party support in the state, on February 7 encouraged Republicans to cross-over and vote for Glenn in the Democratic primary. In Atlanta, on the day Coleman made his pitch for Republican support, Mondale would not comment on Glenn's Republican strategy. Mondale did restate his continuing charge that Glenn has voted for all of President Ronald Reagan's economic and military policies in the Senate. ■

NEWS BITS FROM THE GAY MEDIA CIRCUIT

Gay Community News

Providence, RI, Rough Time for Gays

A bomb blast, a series of threatening phone calls to area Gay bars, an assault on two Gay men that left one dead, and an incident involving police action following the assault have left some members of the Providence, Rhode Island, Gay community in fear of their safety, according to the *Gay Community News* of Boston.

A bomb detonated just outside the back door of the Club 40 East, a Providence Gay bar, blowing off the door and causing an undetermined amount of damage inside December 27 at 8 p.m. The bar was unoccupied at the time, there were no injuries or witnesses, and Providence police say they have no suspects. Shortly after the blast a man called a local television station to say the bar would be bombed again if it continued to admit homosexuals, and several other Gay bars received similar threats following the bombing. Although personnel at the bars say they regard the threatening

phone calls as "copy cats," the calls are being reported to the police.

January 2 two Gay men were knifed near the Mirabar, another Gay bar in Providence. Dennis Fontaine was stabbed in the heart and died, while his companion was stabbed three times in the back as he attempted to flee, and survived. Shortly thereafter police arrested three Fall River, Massachusetts, men — David M. Madieros and David Rego, both 20, and Arthur Denham, 23, in an unrelated window-breaking incident and discovered two knives, one with bloodstains, on their persons. Each of the men has been charged with one count of murder and one count of assault with intent to commit murder and is being held without bail. Police Lieutenant Paul Lebuff said the suspects' previous records included only minor offenses, such as traffic violations and disorderly conduct.

Chuck Noyes, a Gay man

who acts as an unofficial liaison between Providence police and the Gay community, said he did not believe the incidents represent the beginning of a wave of violence directed against Gay people. While Noyes initially discounted any queer-bashing theories, saying he thought the suspects did not even know they were in a Gay bar, it was later learned the three had been ejected a half hour before the stabbing from another Gay bar, La Boheme.

To make matters worse, following the arrest of the stabbing suspects, four police officers entered the Mirabar ostensibly to question patrons about the incident. The police were loud and abusive and did not identify themselves. When one police officer knocked a drink out of a patron's hand and stepped on his foot, an argument ensued and the man was hit by one of the officers. A fight erupted and when a bouncer tried to intervene both were arrested for assault on a police officer. The police then demanded identification from all the patrons, and at no time did they attempt to question anyone about the stabbing.

The Washington Blade

Rochester, NY, Passes Gay Rights Bill

With the inadvertent assistance of virulent anti-Gay opposition, Gay organizers in Rochester, New York, were able to effect passage of a city council resolution banning discrimination in city hiring and provision of services on the basis of sexual orientation, according to the *Gay Community News* of Boston.

Yve Skeet, editor of *The Empty Closet*, a Gay newspaper in Rochester, said opponents of the resolution get down on their knees, shouted hallelujahs, waved bibles and called for the death penalty for Gay people. Supporters of the measure within the city council told Gay activists they had not realized

there was such a need for anti-discrimination legislation until they saw the displays of homophobia. Skeet said the anti-Gay demonstrators "made it very clear there are fanatics out there that we need protection from and there are a sizable number of them."

"You have never heard such hatred and bigotry," said Jackie Nudd, president of the Gay Alliance of Genesee Valley. "Every ugly thing in the world came out of their mouths."

Momentum for the resolution resulted from an incident last

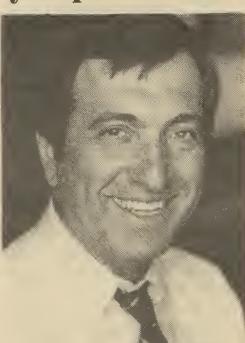
DATA-BOY

Agnos Donates Gay Tapes to NY Fund

State Assemblyman Art Agnos has donated four public service videotapes promoting a healthy Gay self-image to the New York City-based Fund for Human Dignity for use by local Gay charitable and educational groups. The tapes, produced at the request of the California State Mental Health Services in 1981-82, include messages supporting a healthy Gay self-image from such well-known national figures as columnist Abigail Van Buren, the late actor Jack Albertson, and Gay men and lesbians from all walks of life.

The series was part of an outreach to California minority groups undertaken by former Governor Jerry Brown's administration, but the spots supporting Gay men and Lesbians were never released for public use. "I am delighted that these spots can now be made available for television as a public service through local Gay groups across the country, and not just in California," said Agnos. "The message is the most basic support we know for mental well-being . . . feeling good about yourself and who you are is simply good health."

In accepting the tapes, Fund



Assemblyman Art Agnos

for Human Dignity Executive Director Virginia Apuzzo pledged an outreach to local Gay groups to make them aware of the availability of the tapes and to promote their airing to reach a broad range of people. "Assemblyman Agnos has accomplished a great service in bringing these tapes forward," she said. "and we want to show our gratitude by making them available as widely as possible. They will help bring the message that Gay people are self-fulfilled, productive,

and accomplished, and that is a message that both Gay and non-Gay people need to hear again and again."

The tapes became a center of controversy in late 1982 when Secretary of Health Mario Obledo released all the other mental health public service outreach announcements, but refused to allow the tapes pertaining to Gays and Lesbians to be released. At that time, officials claimed that the tapes might be viewed as "promoting" homosexuality because they show Lesbians and Gay men as happy and productive people.

Agnos, Chair of the Assembly Health Committee, was able to confine an official in the California Governor's office to release the tapes to him. Eventually, with only ten minutes remaining in Governor Brown's term of office, the official met with Agnos in an underground garage beneath the State Capitol and passed over the tapes outside of official channels. Agnos later purchased the tapes from the State of California for \$1.00 each. The tapes were produced by Jerry Wheeler and Associates, a Los Angeles-based production firm.

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The Ebony Triangle:

Part I: A Blues Singer and a Civil Rights Legend

by Dion B. Sanders

February is Black History Month. During this time, the names of scores of Black historical figures — great and small — are recalled with reverence in Black communities coast to coast. Names like Booker T. Washington, Crispus Attucks, Mary McCleod Bethune, W.E.B. DuBois, Marcus Garvey, Paul Robeson, Harriet Tubman, Nat Turner, Kunta Kinte, Alex Haley, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, Jr., Medgar Evers, Whitney M. Young, Jr., Benjamin Banneker, George Washington Carver, and even a fictional character, Miss Jane Pittman. The list goes on and on.

But one may not be aware that many of the hundreds of Blacks who have made their mark on American history were Gay or Lesbian — or, based on circumstantial evidence, at least Bisexual. This report will examine the lives of four such historical figures — one of whom is still living and very much out of the closet.

BESSIE SMITH (1894?-1937)

Bessie Smith is best remembered for leaving a tremendous impact on American popular music with what came to be known as "the blues" — songs that were lamentations and satires on the harsher things in life.

The impact of Smith on the music scene was so strong that later music superstars such as Billie Holiday and Janis Joplin cited Smith as the greatest single inspiration in their own careers.

"Tain't Nobody's Bizness If I Do" is the title of one of Smith's best-remembered blues recordings and is also the title of Gay historian Eric Garber's articles and presentations on Black Gays and Lesbians during the Harlem Renaissance period in the 1920s.

But "Tain't Nobody's Bizness" was as much a personal statement by Smith as it was a blues song, for she made no attempt to hide her personal life — and, in effect, told anyone and everyone who objected to it to go to hell.

The "Empress of the Blues" was born in Chattanooga, Tennessee, but racist Southern bureaucrats never recorded a birth certificate. When she married in 1923, her marriage license listed her date of birth as April 15, 1894, but that cannot be confirmed.

Although married to Jack Gee, a nightwatchman who was turned down for a job as a Philadelphia policeman because he was illiterate, Smith was not faithful to him, having had several extramarital affairs — and not all of them were heterosexual.

Stories abounded of relationships with Ma Rainey, her mentor in show business, and male impersonator Gladys Bentley (who will be discussed later in this article), but it was not until 1926 that there was any documentation that Smith had a Lesbian affair.

Lillian Simpson, who accompanied Smith on a tour of the Harlem Frolics company, and Smith became roommates and "no one in the troupe was shocked when Lillian and Bessie began sleeping together regularly."

Simpson, in revealing their relationship to Smith's niece-in-law, Ruby Walker, even suggested that Walker "try it" with Boula Lee, a chorus girl in the company, who had, in fact, made several passes at Walker — despite Lee's own marriage to the company's music director, Bill Woods. Lee turned down the suggestion.

Smith's relationship with Simpson was stormy at best and did not last long. During a performing engagement in St. Louis in January 1927, a fight broke out between them when Simpson recoiled a kiss from Smith. "Don't play around with me like that!" Simpson shouted.



Bessie Smith poses in 1936 publicity shot. The "Empress of the Blues" didn't hide her Lesbian affairs — except to her husband. (Photo courtesy Carl Van Vechten Collection)

"Is that how you feel?" an angered Smith asked.

"Yes! That's exactly how I feel!" Simpson shot back.

"The hell with you, bitch!" Smith snapped. "I've got 12 women on this show, and I can have one every night if I want to. Don't you feel so important, and don't you say another word to me while you're on this show, or I'll send you home bag and baggage!"

They didn't speak to each other for three days. Then Simpson attempted suicide by filling her room with gas while she slept, but was rescued and taken to a nearby hospital, where she recovered.

Shaken by the episode, Smith took Simpson out of the hospital the next morning — and Simpson lost her inhibitions. "From that day on, she didn't care where or when Bessie kissed her," Walker recalled. "She (Simpson) got real bold."

But while she lost her inhibitions, Simpson still feared Smith's husband. Certain that Gee would inevitably find out, Simpson tried twice to leave Smith while her show was in Chicago, but Smith talked her out of it. Finally, on February 5, 1927, as the show stopped in Detroit, Simpson could stand it no longer and left the show — and Smith.

By this time, Smith had been a regular fixture at parties in "buffet flats" — small, private night spots where all sorts of illegal activities took place (Remember, this was during the Prohibition era).

Walker, who accompanied

Smith to one such buffet flat, described it as "nothing but faggots and bulldaggers (a Black variation on the word "bulldyke"). Everything went on in that house — tongu baths, you name it . . . Bessie was well-known in that place."

Inevitably, Jack Gee found out about his wife's Lesbian liaisons. He wasn't faithful to the marriage, either, having had several affairs of his own — but all of them were heterosexual, and learning that Bessie was, in part, a "bulldagger" was more than he could take.

They divorced in 1930.

Seven years later, Smith was killed in a fiery car accident on a desolate Mississippi road. Her funeral in Philadelphia was one of the most outrageously lavish in the city's history.

BAYARD RUSTIN (1910-)

Many Gays today question whether the Rev. Jesse Jackson, founder of Operation PUSH and a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination, is sincere in his statements that Gays are welcome in his "Rainbow Coalition."

Perhaps one clue can be found in the pages of history, specifically, the early Black civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s. Jackson was one of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s top assistants.

So was Bayard Rustin.

Born in 1910 in the Philadelphia suburb of West Chester,

(Continued on next page)

Gays in Black History

(Continued from previous page)

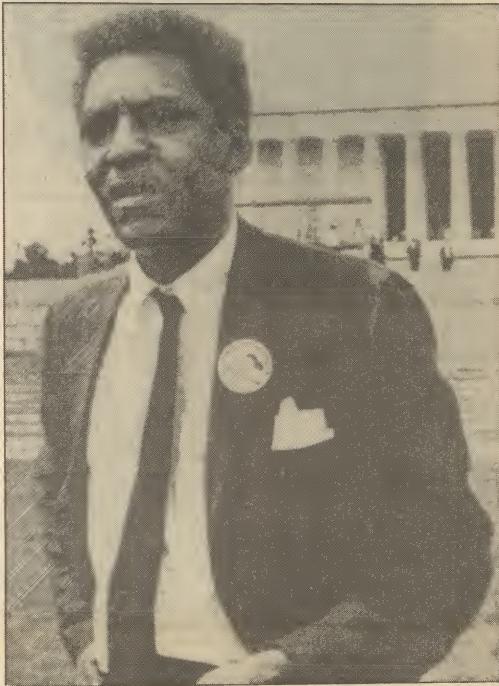
PA, and raised as a Quaker by his grandmother, Rustin learned very early the ideas of pacifism, service, and racial equality, since the Quakers were the only denomination in Christendom with an uninterrupted history of unflinching opposition to war, slavery and racism.

In fact, Rustin was jailed during World War II for refusing to be drafted into the Army. Originally registering as a conscientious objector, Rustin withdrew

Bayard is considered a homosexual, a communist, and a draft dodger. Why are you putting such a burden on King?"

But it turned out that King had already known about Rustin's private life, and his need for Rustin's assistance in the boycott was far too important for him to worry about that. So upon his arrival in Montgomery, Rustin became part of King's inner circle of advisers.

Nevertheless, Rustin had been warned in advance by several



Bayard Rustin surveys preparations for the 1963 March on Washington. His Gayness and past communist ties made him unpopular with other civil rights leaders. (Photo courtesy Ebony magazine)

his claim on the grounds that any kind of military service — even voluntary — violated his beliefs.

Rustin, now 73 and still writing a column syndicated to Black newspapers nationwide, is the only surviving Black civil rights leader whose activities date back from the Black labor movement of A. Phillip Randolph in the 1940s.

He is out of the closet now, of course, but he never kept his homosexuality a secret — not even during the height of the McCarthy era.

In fact, because of his wartime association with the Young Communist League (which he quit in an ideological dispute after the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union) Rustin was more of a liability than an asset to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, founded and headed by King.

When King organized the Montgomery bus boycott in 1955, Rustin, who was at that time a major officer in Randolph's Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) went to Montgomery to aid King in his fight to end segregation in that city's public transit system.

There was one problem: in addition to being a convicted draft resister and former communist, Rustin was also arrested for sodomy in an incident in a men's washroom.

So when Randolph dispatched Rustin to Montgomery, some of Randolph's comrades in FOR objected vehemently. Rustin recalls Norman Thomas, leader of the Socialist party and a FOR officer, telling Randolph: "This young King is doing very well.

members of King's "cabinet" that "they are trying to make out that communists and New Yorkers (Rustin's hometown was only 90 miles from New York) are running our protest," according to Rustin's diary.

It is not known whether Jackson was one of those members of King's inner circle who raised that issue.)

Rustin became King's secretary, drafting the structural plan that became the organization of the SCLC, among other things.

In a 1979 interview with author Milton Viorst, Rustin claimed that he also tried to complement King's Christian morality with "some hard economic thinking, to turn the Montgomery protest to consideration for jobs, but King's mind was (at that time) still far from economics."

But by 1960, Rustin was increasingly being left out in the cold as the civil rights movement grew.

King chose not to offer Rustin the post of SCLC executive director under threat of a massive walkout by conservative Black churchmen. (Again, it is not known whether Jackson was one of those ministers.) Later, Rustin was ousted from King's inner circle altogether.

Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee turned down Rustin out of fear that by having a former communist in its ranks, it would lose a chance to obtain a grant from the fiercely anti-communist AFL-CIO.

(Years later, more militant Blacks, such as H. Rap Brown, Stokely Carmichael — now known as Kwame Toure, Bobby Seale, and Huey Newton de-

nounced Rustin — and his former colleagues as well — as an "Uncle Tom.")

With his star in the movement having faded, Rustin stayed out of the limelight until 1963, when Randolph nominated Rustin to be director of the March on Washington. Again, objections were raised about his homosexuality and political past, with Roy Wilkins issuing a veiled threat to pull his NAACP — whose money and manpower were vital — out of the march.

Randolph insisted that only Rustin had the ability to organize such a massive undertaking with his kind of organizational skills. After much heated wrangling, a compromise was struck: Randolph — to whom the march had been a dream of his for more than 20 years — was named director, with Rustin as deputy director.

Although Rustin's homosexuality was well-known among civil rights leaders and several public officials, it was still largely unknown to the general public, chiefly because it was never mentioned by the press. That situation changed abruptly two weeks before the march.

Rustin was publicly kicked out of the closet by Senator Strom Thurmond (R-NC). In a speech on the Senate floor, Thurmond attacked Rustin as "a communist, a draft dodger, and a homosexual (the exact word Thurmond used to describe Rustin's homosexuality was deemed unsuitable for printing in the Congressional Record).

Thurmond's attack made front-page headlines.

Rustin, although he had expected it to happen, nonetheless issued a statement, "As for Senator Thurmond's charge that I am a homosexual, I will not condescend myself with a response."

In Rustin's files is a statement by Randolph that he was prepared to say had he been asked by reporters on the issue. The statement reads, "Twenty-two arrests in the fight for civil rights attest, in my mind, to Mr. Rustin's dedication to high human ideals . . .

"That Mr. Rustin was on one occasion arrested in another connection (the men's washroom incident) has long been a matter of public record, and not an object of concealment," the statement continued.

"There are those who contend that this incident, which took place many years ago, voids or overwhelms Mr. Rustin's ongoing struggle for human rights. I hold otherwise," the Randolph statement concluded.

Thurmond's attack backfired, with news commentators denouncing it as "contemptuous" and "hitting below the belt." The times being what they were, the commentators stopped short of branding Thurmond a racist.

The Stonewall Rebellion was still six years away . . .

D.B. Sanders
To be continued . . .

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POLITICS AND POKER

San Francisco's Republicans

WAYNE FRIDAY

When last Tuesday's filing deadline for the legislature came and went, the City's Republicans found themselves with sufficient candidates to challenge the Democrats for lawmakers' jobs in Sacramento, with even a primary fight in two of the GOP races.

Assembly Speaker Willie Brown, long thought to be invincible in San Francisco politics, will likely be facing former Supervisor Lee Dolson in the November election, though Dolson will have a primary opponent within the GOP in June, in the person of Donald Donaldson, a member of the GOP County Central Committee. Dolson should have no problem getting past Donaldson on June 5, and no one has ever heard of Willie's primary opponent, so

worry about. Pappan's Republican opponent will be Gay attorney/activist Bob Bacci, an unsuccessful candidate for the Community College Board a couple of years back. Bacci told the *Bay Area Reporter* this week that he would be putting on a full campaign to unseat Democrat Pappan, though Bacci, too, must get past a primary opponent in the June Republican primary. Pappan's 19th Assembly District includes the southwest portion of San Francisco (about 1/4 of the district) and the rest of the district lies in heavily Democratic San Mateo.

The one legislative seat that the Democrats feel they have a shot at is Milton Marks' 3rd state senatorial seat. Marks, seeking a fourth term in the upper chamber, will be running in

free ride this time." Belli will have the party machinery behind her and a lot of Democrats are bent on defeating Marks, who took the unorthodox step (in the opinion of the City's Democrats anyway) of challenging the late City party Democrat boss Phil Burton when Burton ran for re-election to Congress a year and a half ago. Many Democrats still hold a grudge against Marks and they are promising to bring the party guns and big bucks here to even the score.

Marks, who repeatedly wins elections as a Republican in a heavily Democratic city, is considered by most as a "party fluke" here, and many political prognosticators will tell you that after Marks finally leaves public office, it will be a long while before any Republican is elected to partisan office here.

The Republican Party is a sorry lot in San Francisco. Only about 19% of the City's voters here align themselves with the Republicans, but the flurry of candidates (some good, some not so good) within the GOP here this year shows that despite the odds, many Republicans hope that with the name of Ronald Reagan heading their ticket in November, a miracle could happen all the way down to the legislative portion of the ballot.

* * *

Gay attorney John E. Wahl says he will be running for the Board of Supervisors this November. • And in Marin, Paul Chignell, a San Francisco police officer who lost to Marin's GOP Assemblyman William Filante two years ago, says he will seek the Democratic nomination to try again.

All but two of the 100 legislators whose terms in Sacramento expire this year plan to run for re-election. • Nationally known columnist Jack Anderson will keynote the California Democratic Council's Oakland convention on March 2 at the Hyatt Regency. • In the first of what promises to be an endless number of such polls, one done by the *L.A. Times* last week rates Ronald Reagan with a much higher personal popularity rating (63% to 47%) over probable opponent Walter Mondale. • And anyone who watched the 8 Demo contenders in that debate from Des Moines on Saturday would have to agree that it is a shame George McGovern doesn't have a chance in hell of getting the nomination.

Word from the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs has it that six men and two women were discharged from the Academy there in the last year for homosexuality. An Air Force spokesman said, "America isn't ready to have homosexuals in the military."

Who says chauvinism is dead? The photo in last week's *Progress* of Speaker Willie Brown gallantly kissing the hand of "Dynasty" star Joan Collins at the American Paralysis Association's fundraiser here (with Dianne and Dick looking on approvingly) has to be a classic.

In Rockville, MD, a bill barring discrimination against Gays in housing, employment, or public accommodations sailed through a Montgomery County subcommittee.

In Albany, NY, about \$4 million in state research grants were awarded last week for the study of AIDS. NY state has about 45% of the USA's total cases and one study there will include 57 prison inmates.

I suspect that police department attorney Lawrence "Law" Wilson is in no hurry to go up against Supervisor Richard Hongisto in the near future. Hongisto was splendid and Wilson is still having trouble



SF's oldest friend, Milton Marks, who in 1980 ran without opposition, chats with political novice John Wahl, who wants to be the Gay supervisor. (Photo: Dan Nicoletta)

wiping the egg off his face. • I think that if I were a City Hall reporter for one of the major dailies I would get a little tired (embarrassed?) at all of those cheap-shot stories they are always doing on the "expenses, etc." that the supervisors run up on the phone, etc. What the hell is this anyway? These "investigative" (?) stories make us all look like bush leaguers. Running this City is a big job, and these continuous "scandals" that these reporters are constantly writing about are damned silly. • While reading a recent interview with Lesbian comic/feminist Robin Tyler, I came across these words of beauty from our favorite "house dyke" (her definition, not mine). It seems the lady lives with three other women in the Hollywood Hills). Tyler: "I find it easier to be a Lesbian in Los Angeles to be Jewish in San Francisco." (?) She continues: "Gay press is sensationalizing a lot of things and destroying organizations and destroying individuals, all in the name of community responsibility." (Take that, David Goodstein!)

Oh yes, the Stonewall Gay Democrats would like to invite all to their post-Valentine's Day party this Saturday night, the 18th, at 1359 Masonic (no-host bar, etc, 8 p.m. to 12 a.m., and wear Red).

I might have mentioned this before, but it is important and I want to run it by again. Mike Hennessey's Sheriff's Department is on a recruitment drive to find new deputies and this is a hell of a chance to start a new career. This is the first time in more than three years that a test will be given for the permanent Civil Service position, and another such test will not be given



CRIR's Bob Bacci challenges Papan. (Photo: Rink)

CRIR to Host McCloskey

Former Congressman Paul N. (Pete) McCloskey (R-Palo Alto) will be the featured speaker for Concerned Republicans for Individual Rights at its February 21 membership meeting. He will discuss the crisis in the Middle East, the deteriorating situation in Lebanon, and possible options for American foreign policy in that region of the world.

The meeting will take place at the Front Page, 20 Annie Street (behind the Sheraton Palace Hotel) — with cocktails at 6 and program at 7 PM.

McCloskey during his 16 years in the Congress was one of the rising stars of the moderate wing of the Republican Party. He was known for his candor

and willingness to take controversial and sometimes unpopular stands. He was also respected by his colleagues for "doing his homework" and for his dry wit and intellect.

The congressman was an outspoken opponent of American involvement in Vietnam, and a strong advocate of individual rights for women, ethnic minorities, and Gay people, and for protecting the environment.

McCloskey came in a strong second in a crowded field for the Republican nomination for United States Senator in 1982, and retired shortly thereafter. He is currently in private law practice, and has taught classes at Stanford University and Santa Clara University.



Lee Dolson seeks to make political comeback at Willie Brown's expense.

there is no reason to mention him here. Though you would be hard-pressed to find anyone in San Francisco who thinks Dolson can defeat Brown in the Speaker's heavily Democratic 17th District (only 20% of the district voters are registered Republicans) Dolson will get more votes than the party registration of the district would indicate. One well-known Democrat here, upon learning of Dolson's candidacy last week, told me that "Dolson will surprise a few. There are a number of Democrats in this town who secretly hold little love for Willie and will be looking for a chance to vote against him." Assuming Dolson gets by his June primary opponent, he could give Willie a fight in November despite the heavy Democratic edge Brown has in the 17th Assembly District.

Art Agnos is another sure winner. Agnos' 16th District presents an even darker picture for the Republicans with only about 18% of that district registered with the GOP. Gordon Bloyer, a Republican that Agnos beat badly two years ago, will likely be Agnos' opponent again this November, and Art's friends show no sign of concern about this one.

Lou Pappan's heavily Democratic 19th District (GOP registration about 25% here) also gives the Democrats little to

a new district that includes all of Marin County and about half of San Francisco, and will be opposed in November by Lia Belli, the current president of the California Democratic Council and wife of famed lawyer Melvin Belli. Democrats say that the



Lia Belli challenges three-term Senator Marks.

Belli campaign in November will be well-financed and organized. Marks is thought to be worried for the first time in a long while.

Four years ago Marks, with the benefit of a write-in primary campaign, was the nominee of both the Republican and Democratic parties because no serious Democrat entered the race against him. It will be a different show this November, however, with the Democrats in the City telling Marks that "there is no

GREATER BAY NEWS

AN JOSE SANTA CLARA CUPERTINO SUNNYVALE REDWOOD CITY PALO ALTO MONTEREY PLEASANT HILL VALLEJO BERKELEY WALNUT CREEK CAMPBELL FREMON

One Less Legend in Guerneville

Pie Creator Creates Lobby Position

by John Wetzel

A legend has recently moved away from what has been called the most successfully integrated Gay/ Lesbian/Straight community around, a community categorized by the fact that legends still exist in its vicinity.

With the exit of activist Leonard Matlovich from the scene, Guerneville Gays and Lesbians and Straights, who have relied on Matlovich's political representation in the past, are minus one big cuddly security blanket. And that means real changes in the Guerneville concept of community that Matlovich is perhaps solely responsible for cultivating. In fact, it was always Leonard's hue and cry that reverberated through Sonoma County's wooded hills telling establishment Gays and Straights to get off their duffs and do something for the community, say residents.

Matlovich has taken over a self-created position in his self-created organization — a vehicle for social and political activism — the Concerned Americans for Individual Rights. When he dropped into Guerneville back in 1978 he was doing much the same thing.

The set of circumstances in Guerneville at that time were just right, according to community activist and business owner Christian Haren, for the kind of impact Matlovich had on that community. His impact was not insignificant. The town was just beginning the process of assimilating the newly immigrating (Gay) minority. And the region was suffering economic recession that only a tourist town on the downswing can know.

When Matlovich hit, he hit

hard. Uncompromising in his approach and in his determination to get things done, Matlovich turned a sleepy political establishment of retired or retiring ranchers, farmers, and cowboys to an active hub of human rights experimentation and socio-economic planning that "liberal" urban activists would envy.

Most would agree that Matlovich got away with what he did because he would make himself well-liked. According to local news editor Steve Pizzo, Matlovich liked to be liked. It seemed to be what Pizzo described as a childlike quality in Matlovich that struck an exciting political revival in the area to match economic burgeoning localers still marvel at.

Matlovich was not responsible

for Guerneville's economic well-being, but Gays were. It was the likes of Matlovich and Haren, however, that maintained a good reputation for Gay settlers, and today Guerneville old-timers have nothing but praise for Guerneville's Gay community. It could have been different.

The day that Matlovich left Guerneville, the *Bay Area Reporter* spoke with Haren, who feels the pressure to fill what is perceived as something of a void. Haren described a moment when Matlovich entered Haren's candy store, The Russian River Chocolate Factory, and began crying, thinking himself a failure. That was shortly before he left town. Matlovich's business had apparently not been doing well.



(Photo: Rink)

Haren looked Leonard in the eye and said, "But you've been one hell of a successful human being."

That was the kind of energy

that Guerneville's community has thrived on for the past several years. Says Pizzo, in an editorial to Matlovich, "Good luck, Leonard, write often, and remember those who have taken the time to know you are just a phone call away."

Matlovich received nationwide attention in 1975 when he successfully collected damages from the United States Air Force.

The Air Force had discharged Matlovich for being Gay, and Matlovich challenged the constitutionality of that action. At that time, Matlovich was a *Time Magazine* cover story.

Matlovich will now head the Concerned Americans for Individual Rights in Washington, DC, a conservative national lobby.

OAKLAND

Pride and Privilege

NEZ PAS

Vainglory! (A Crested Nose?) If any of you ever had a reason to feel guilty about not being "normal," the 1984 Cable Car Awards would have removed any doubts! "Proud" is not strong enough a word to describe the feeling I received from the evening's presentations.

From act one's curtain to the finale, the entire presentation was filled with the theme of the show — OUTSTANDING! How refreshing that none of the ten entertainment breaks had any pantomime! It was all live, all well rehearsed, all polished and professional, and all OUTSTANDING!

The standing ovation for Jose, Empress I, demonstrated that we have not forgotten how and when it all began; how far we

have come in just a few years; and just how much farther we have to go. And it was great that three East Bay groups received awards: Hayward and Oakland Float Committees for prize winning floats in the Freedom Day Parade '83; and Tony Valentine's King & Queen of Hearts Ball '83, Lake Merritt Hotel.

The feeling the evening gave wasn't really outstanding. I didn't really feel proud to be Gay. The aura that surrounded me could best be described as knowing that it is a privilege to be Gay. I don't want that privilege taken away, made fun of, or demeaned in any way. Bob Cramer's Awards are helping to prevent that.

(Continued on next page)

East Bay Demos

Politicians Court Gay Club



High Gays. Richard LaVoie, aide to State Senator David Roberti. (Photo: M.A. Brownstein)

Representatives of Lesbian and Gay political organizations from all over the state visited the free luncheon sponsored by the East Bay Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club and the Bench & Bar during the Democratic "mini-convention" held in Oakland. Also in attendance were political leaders from Alameda County, including Chris Peebles of the Montclair-Greater Oakland Democratic Club, Ruth Sullivan, past president of South County NWPC, and Alameda County Supervisor John George.

George, a long-time supporter of the East Bay community, is the only county supervisor to appoint an openly Gay member to a county commission or board. EBL/GDC Corresponding Secretary Suzy Ganz will take over the seat on the Alameda County Human Relations Commission recently vacated by Kerry Woodward, Club Finance Chair.

Woodward, co-chair of the Human Rights Campaign Fund, later made a pitch to the members of the Lesbian/Gay Caucus for support for the Campaign Fund's new grassroots fundraising project, S.O.S. (Show Our Strength)-84.

The luncheon was also attended by John Laird, Gay Mayor of Santa Cruz, and Francis Serra, Gay candidate for the 20th Congressional seat. Serra faces an uphill battle in the conservative district which runs from San Luis Obispo to Bakersfield. He reports, however, that the small but growing Gay community in Kern County is developing coalitions with Black, Hispanic, and other disenfranchised communities in the area.

Most of the luncheon participants went on to attend the Les-

bian/Gay Caucus meeting at the Oakland Hyatt. The caucus organized a successful petition drive to add a more emphatic statement to the party's platform about the necessity for increased AIDS funding. Caucus members also approved a resolution condemning John Glenn's homophobia and calling him "unacceptable" for either president or vice president.

The East Bay Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club is planning a public meeting on Sunday, March 11, to discuss the new Oakland Lesbian/Gay Rights Ordinance. All are invited to attend to find out what their rights are, how the ordinance works, and what we need to do to enforce it. The meeting will be at 7 PM at Mama Bears, 6536 Telegraph in Oakland. The meeting is free and wheelchair accessible. Info: 843-2459. ■



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Info: the Stanford Gay and Lesbian Events Tape, 497-1488. ■

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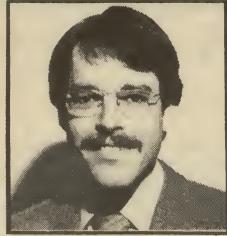
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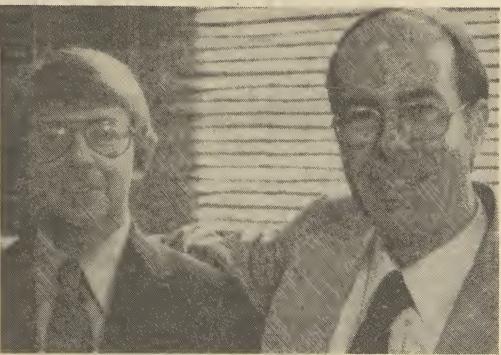
Three 'Partner' Lawsuits Divvy Proceeds

by John Wetzel

The tallies are all in and organizers announced last Thursday night that the first Campaign for Family Partner Benefits (CFPB) fundraiser show took in nearly twice the amount of money they originally had accounted for. Headliners Lea DeLaria and Jeanine Strobel had brought down the house during the February 3 performance as did musical duo Romanovsky and Phillips. Attended by 200, the event was seen by organizers as a great success. ■

Proceeds from the show will be distributed by the CFPB to three currently pending lawsuits. The cases seek to revise benefit contracts to entitle partners of unmarried Gay and Lesbian state and private employees privileges normally extended only to employee spouses. The CFPB was conceived of by the litigants in the three pending suits.

"What CFPB does," said litigator Allen Chamberlin, "is publicize the reality of our families. But it does so in a very special way. It does it by saying Gay rights means equality in every sense, including compen-



Boyce Hinman and Larry Beatty

sation for labor." Chamberlin is filing suit against Frontier Airlines for travel benefits for his lover of ten years.

CFPB organizer Larry Brinken says a majority of CFPB's activist base is centered in Sacramento. The organizing team that put the show together has disbanded, though, and now CFPB planners have passed the hat over to San Francisco litigator Brinken. Brinken says he is planning an educational forum for March 14 in San Francisco to help solidify CFPB programs

in Northern California. The forum will be free of charge.

The Campaign for Family Partner Benefits is new and unsure of the direction it will take. Litigant Boyce Hinman attributed the Sacramento fundraiser's success to the broad base of support he enjoys in the Sacramento area. Hinman, Brinken, Chamberlin, and their supporters and attorneys now want to test the waters for support throughout California. That is part of the reason for next month's educational forum in San Francisco. They will soon undertake a large-scale mailing, asking for contributions to the CFPB from throughout Northern California. They hope they will see the same kind of support that came from the Sacramento Lesbian and Gay community.

"I pretty much felt that we had a good working group that was working well together and enjoying the experience. We felt like we were accomplishing something worthwhile," Hinman explained. "We ended up with something that turned out to be quite beautiful."

The Campaign for Family Partner Benefits will be holding their San Francisco Educational Forum at the Union Hall of the Office Workers Local 1100, 1345 Mission, from 8 to 9 PM on March 14. ■

Burlingame

State Support for Lovers

The California State Employees Association last week moved to enter an *amicus* brief in the case of Boyce Hinman versus the State of California. Hinman has filed suit to secure dental benefits for his lover, Larry Beatty, who is currently excluded from dental coverage, despite an operating policy in Hinman's Employment Development Department prohibiting discrimination against employees on the basis of sexual orientation.

The State Employees Association has a modestly pro-Gay track record. During the last contract negotiation with the

state, the CSEA attempted to negotiate a clause that would prevent the kind of exclusion Hinman and Beatty are experiencing. The CSEA is the largest state employees union in California.

The *amicus* brief will be submitted to the 3rd District Court of Appeals within the next three weeks. It will briefly state CSEA support for Hinman's charges and will be considered as evidence in the claims Hinman's lawyer, Roberta Achtenberg, is making in the suit. Achtenberg is with the Lesbian Rights Project.

OAKLAND

(Continued from previous page)

Prosthetic Mammary Enhancers! (A Cleaved Nose?) You only get one guess on this one — if I told you about a bar party that included men in dresses, falsies being thrown around the bar, and a Queen of Hearts candidate's pants falling around the ankles, where would you suppose this took place? No, no, no, and no again! It all happened at Billy Souza's fundraiser at the Jubilee! What an eye-opener, huh? Val and Betty want me to inform all that everyone is welcome at the "Jube" and that the door is locked for security reasons only. The group of women with whom I conversed that night couldn't have been more open, warm and friendly — and willing to mix. So, for a change of pace, give it a try. They pour good drinks, too!

Subvention! (A Cashed Nose?) Emperor and Empress Don and Cha Cha did royalty proud with their raffle, auction, and spaghetti feed fundraiser at the Town and Country, Wednesday, February 8. A good crowd packed the place, and Lady Stephanie made sure that each and every one of us bought raffle tickets! There's hardly any way to say "no" to that pushy wench! I wasn't too upset that I didn't win any of the raffles. I really didn't care that Fred and Rod each won three of the raffles. I

was truly pleased when my spouse won a multi-strand pearl necklace (I already knew what gown would complement the bauble!) But can you imagine my upset when my spouse walked right by me and gave the jewelry to Cha Cha!!! And she hadn't even shaved for the evening's festivities! Harumph, indeed! A good representation from Hayward was there, but as LaLa stated, it's too bad that it is always the same ones; how come the rest won't support it? Who knows, LaLa? The reversal is true, too, you know!

After all the monies were totaled, and I donated back my logo prize money (hey, I can't let my spouse one up me, can I?), the grand total to start the Court of Fantasy and Ice with a bank account was \$562!

It was good to see ex-Oaklander Royal Anne and S.F. friends there re-enjoying the East Bay's style of fun and companionship. Lake Lounge was there, as were Revol, Mama's, Spoiled Brat, (Bench & Bar and In Between) donated prizes; as well as contestants — er, make that contestant — for the New Queen of Hearts. My mind was boggled, again!, what with Lady Johnny in men's clothes, and Fuji with a five — nay, ten o'clock shadow! The new Miss \$1.98 towered above the crowd, gleefully counting her one hundred and ninety-eight pennies! Little Mother and John John cornered many conversations —

well, make that Little Mother, anyway! Jim H. in a suit and selling real estate? My mind won't take much more, hon!

Revol's Birthington's Wash-day Party is this Sunday, February 19, with the complementary buffet starting at 7 PM, and entertainment by Go for Broke band at 8 PM. David Reign entertains at Mama's the same Sunday, at 3 PM, with a bus to Revol leaving at 6 PM. It's the last chance to see David before he leaves for months of touring. . . . Liars Dice Tournament at Spoiled Brat all this week, with the grand finale on Monday, February 20. If you didn't sign up, you missed out on the possibility of a \$500 prize! Puhleeze don't ask Trish and Cheryl about Greta Gras' thinking they were some other couple! No, not Gertrude and Alice, hon!

Help bring the "Hearts" back to the East Bay. Go to the Queen and King of Hearts Ball at the Rathskeller in San Francisco and VOTE East Bay! Sorry, Tony Valentine, we have a dinner engagement in Concord, Saturday, February 25. Besides, it's FREE! . . . Tom of the Spoiled Brat, are you ready? Al won't do it. LaLa won't do it. Will you do it? . . . You know those toy dogs with bobbing heads in rear windows of automobiles? What Oakland bartender looks like — oh, never mind! You already know!

Nez Pas ■

BAY AREA REPORTER

ENTERTAINMENT

Gay WHO Gay WHAT Gay WHERE Gay WHEN Gay WHY Gay WHO Gay WHAT Gay WHERE Gay

Exploding Question Marks

"I was knocked out by the play's physical and philosophical slapstick," wrote Bay Area Reporter reviewer Bernard Spunberg when picking *Knife Paper Scissors* as one of his favorite plays of 1983. Many others liked it too, enabling creators Caitlin Morgan and Susie Bright to revive their show. They'll give it six more performances in the Bay Area before taking the subtitled "Comedy of Secrets" to Los Angeles. They stopped polishing the porcelain to tell why the play takes place in a bathroom and why it's been labeled "political hot potato."

"We have a reputation for being political hot potatoes," explained Morgan. "Although it was really quite humorous, the mimed violence in our last show, *Girls Gone Bad*, got us banned from a women's theatre festival. The play was confrontive about female sexuality, and the organizers were apprehensive. *Knife Paper Scissors* is more complicated. The same issues come up, but are blended into the dialogue better."

"We chose the bathroom setting before writing the play. We like ritual and bathroom behavior is codified, ritualized. A bathroom is also a private place. The play is a journey into oneself, doing away with that part of the self that has to do with memories of the past which oppress you."

"Some people at previous performances were upset by a murder which takes place, but it's symbolic, not explicit violence."

Also symbolic is the play's pissing scene. The women discover their bathroom has no toilet and tension builds when one of them has to urinate. Though played out, forcefully, the action is symbolic, confronting us with what Morgan describes as "holding something for a long time, finally releasing it, and then saying, 'What have I done?'"



No Pajama Party. Knives, bodily functions, murder — elements of *Knife Paper Scissors* that make the play serious beneath its jests. (Photo: Honey Lee Cottrell)

and only an hour long. There's no intermission?

"No!" chortled the women. "No escape!"

Knife Paper Scissors will be presented February 17-18 at Centerspace; February 25-26 at Eighth St. Studio in Berkeley; March 3-4 at Studio Eremos; and March 9-10 at Oranges Gallery in L.A. All performances at 8 PM, \$5; reservations advised, 826-3941.

All this in a play also described as hysterically funny —



Wicked stepsisters Robert LaFosse and Victor Barbee persecute poor Cinderella (Magali Messac) in American Ballet Theatre's new Baryshnikov-Peter Anastos production of *Cinderella*. Using the Prokofiev score, the full-evening spectacular features designs by Santo Loquasto with an estimated budget in the neighborhood of \$1.1 million — the most extravagant American ballet production in recent history. There are three scheduled performances of the new ballet during the weekend of February 24. Other highlights of the ABT season are the West Coast premieres of three new works by Twyla Tharp, and *Paguita*, staged by Natalia Makarova after Petipa. ABT dances February 21 through March 4 at the War Memorial Opera House. Tickets at the Box Office, BASS or by phone, (415) 864-3330. (Photo: M. Swope)

Inside Entertainment

Stage: Pat Bond, Titania the Fairy Queen, Jane Dornacker, and Diverse Divas fill the local stages pages 21-21

Film: *The Dresser* undressed in a review by Steve Warren page 22

Dance: Keith White has a Pearl for Pig and a Poke for Ailey page 23

Sports: Reportage on more leagues — the SF Women's Business Bowling League joins the section page 24

Leather: Tom Rogers speeds through the Best of the Breasts and zips over cowhide

Porn: Ronnette Points a Finger then Fingers His Cock; Karr Shakes His Fist page 27

On the Dark Side

The Noh Oratorio Society has a reputation for presenting works mildly, to say the least, esoteric. *No Boy Meets Boy* for this group, but readings of Blake and Joyce, stage realizations of Stein and other works of the genus rarous. Their current project is the first performance, in its original language, of Djuna Barnes' *The Antiphon*.

Long considered obscure and unstageable, Barnes readers and scholars have accepted the work as the complete statement of her life and thought, containing perhaps the best poetry written for the theatre in our time.

The *Antiphon* is a three-act tragedy in blank verse. The theme is the hopeless attempt of a mother and daughter to resolve the conflicts they were born and bred into: the woman's part of the human condition. Two sons plot the death of their mother and sister, while an uncle and a third son stand by to chart the course of the lot. Barnes casts all this in the language and style of the Jacobean stage, with the macabre imagination and dark humor of her well-known novel *Nightwood*. As the daughter Miranda says, "But on the dark side, there I entertain."



Love is both the means and the malady of man's existence. In loving we attempt the reunion of our divided being, and we expect the called-for response (the antiphon), though we never really hear or understand it. But this is our only possible salvation — to escape the fragmentation and solitude. So we go on, like all the "protagonists" in Djuna Barnes' works, and like Miss Barnes herself, "the damned, who won't capitulate."

The Antiphon
Studio Eremos
February 17-19, 24-26; 863-3027



The world premiere of San Francisco playwright Adele Prandini's *A Safe Light* will be given this week at Theatre Rhinoceros, opening Wednesday, February 25, for a six-week run.

A Safe Light deals with a sensitive subject: the impending death of a loved one. In this case, three middle-aged women must learn how to deal with their feelings about death when they discover that one of them is dying. It's no ordinary "support group," however. Both of the healthy women have been seriously involved with the one who is dying — one of them is her current lover — the other, her "ex." The play skillfully examines the emotional impact on all three. Reservations: 861-5079. (Photo: Mark I. Chester)



Ballerina Boys. Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo, with all its dancing madmen in tutus and tights, returns to the San Francisco Opera House for three performances Friday and Saturday, February 17 and 18, at 8 PM and Sunday, February 19, at 7 PM.

Raymonda's Wedding, described as "a traditionally confusing divertissement in two scenes," with music by Glazunov and choreographed by Betteanne Terrell, will have its SF Opera House premiere Friday, with a repeat Sunday evening.

Tickets are available at the Opera House, BASS, or phone 864-3330. ■

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"The Dresser" is one of the rare fine films of the year. Albert Finney gives a bravura performance and Tom Courtenay is electrifying. The entire cast is splendid. From first to last "The Dresser" is an ensemble of excellence. —Gene Shalit, NBC-TV, TODAY SHOW

"Triumphant. My favorite film of the year. Be sure not to miss it." —Jeffrey Lyons, SNEAK PREVIEWS

"The Dresser" gives two splendid actors, Tom Courtenay and Albert Finney, a chance to strut their stuff. Courtenay offers a perfectly polished performance. Subtle observation and marvelously controlled invention mark his work. Finney is a revelation. —Richard Schickel, TIME MAGAZINE



THE DRESSER

Starring ALBERT FINNEY TOM COURtenay

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STAGE

Love to Love You, Baby

by John F. Karr

Word is out once again, and it's not surprising that Pat Bond is spreading it. Appearing in butch costume and a wig of brown hair as Lorena Hickok, Bond corrects history books in her opening line. "No, I was not her best friend," she defiantly hurls at the audience. "I was in love with Eleanor Roosevelt and she was in love with me."

Although the title of the one-woman show Bond wrote and stars in, Lorena Hickok and Eleanor Roosevelt: A Love Story, has already revealed the big news, nothing can take the bracing thrill out of that opening proclamation. Like so much of the play, it aims for the gut and gets there. Bond has done so much more in this show than merely restore a hitherto suppressed part of our heritage. Her excellent script gives full life to Hickok, and admirably conveys necessary historical and social information without losing its personal tone. Bond acts this monodrama with a conviction and passion that works on multiple levels. Our Gay identity is reconfirmed in the story of a forbidden love's triumph, and our desire for an evening of entertainment apart from message and politics is met and exceeded by Bond's obvious love for the women and passionate portrayal.

Hickok's story would be fascinating even if she hadn't been Eleanor's lover. The adversity she overcame — familial, physical, economic, sexist — is amazing, and the career she made for herself inspiring. Add the love story — documented in over 2,000 letters written by Eleanor on White House stationery — and you have a sure repertory staple that will take Pat Bond around the world. And that's only fitting — Eleanor was an ambassador, too.

While the appeal to womenists and Lesbians is obvious, and voiced in so many ways ("I knew it was wrong taking my unnu-



"Aren't We Lucky She's Not A Man?" Lorena Hickok (Pat Bond) reads from the love letters of Eleanor Roosevelt, revealing an Eleanor history hasn't allowed: Eleanor in the bathtub, in wooded glens, Eleanor in love. (Photo: Mark I. Chester)

ral love to that woman," says Lorena; "Would I be the wife or mother?" asks Eleanor of her seemingly insatiable married fate), the identification value for Gay men should be no less strong. Love is love, and when the story is by turns hot and tender, what does gender matter? Hickok's personal strength, as written and played by Bond, voices the subject's sentiment yet avoids mush. I've seen some love stories about Gay men that I wish were expressed with this forthright clarity and honesty. We're told those are "masculine" virtues; so much for the received wisdom of straight people. Bond and company set things really straight.

Not to be overlooked are the frequent wit and compassion of the script, and the minor faults of the production. A speech delivered by Eleanor herself is not sufficiently differentiated from Hickok and confuses, and John Beeman's direction is problematic. The use of multiple playing areas demarcates locations and

time periods well, but seems designed for a different actress than the one performing. Ms. Bond is unfortunately not as young in her legs as she is in her heart, and has less difficulty revealing her love for the characters than perambulating around the set. This problem will probably be lessened when the play moves from the main stage to Studio Rhino, with its smaller playing area. The Studio's intimacy will deliciously punch-up the final moments' coup — Bond has not only delivered a fine performance and a sure-to-be-widely-performed script — but a smash finale, too. Send 'em out cheering, Pat.

The cozy set is by Steven Douglas, fluid lighting is by R.L. Waugh, and atmospheric though abrupt sound is by Cindy Rae Braman. ■

L. Hickok and E. Roosevelt: A Love Story
Studio Rhino
Through March 31; 861-5079

Fairies Recruit Children

Shakespearean Big Fun at Entry Level

by Paul-Francis Hartmann

A ny play about fairies is bound to raise an eyebrow or two, so why not let out as many stops as tickle the fancy? ACT last week opened a par-

ticularly florid Midsummer Night's Dream that will please all stages of theater sophistication. For starters, it's a visual banana split — a costumer's runaway vision. What doesn't move, shimmers in metallic and



Top Drawer Las Vegas Revue. Peter Donat and Annette Bening are the Fairy King and Queen at ACT in the show that was the hit revue of its day.

brocaded iridescence. For seconds, this Dream is aerobics in motion. The stage's multiple surfaces are carpeted, and when not walking and running and leaping, the actors can rumble and roll and sommersault to their pratfall's content. They come in all sizes, this troupe of ACT, and the children fairies frolic in as much fairy awe of themselves as they do for the audience. Let us say then, it is a busy business that at times seems even too busy for the ACT ensemble.

More than enough of the Shakespeare comes through (which means understandable — even for those least nurtured on a Shakespeare diet). Perorating actors mouthing Renaissance English pentameter are at a minimum, and no one's at a loss as to what's going on.

The comic sub-plot (the workman players planning a play within the play) are this production's greatest asset. The bouquets here belong to veterans Sydney Walker and Ray Reinhardt. They and their zany troupe get laughs by the lineful and are a delightful counterpoint to the courtly arch English of the romanticized Greek heroes and heroines.

On the weakness side of the ledger, Peter Donat seems a bit uncomfortable as Oberon, King of the Fairies; his Queen of Fairies, Titania, looks at times too much like a Vegas showgirl, but

(Continued on page 27)

STAGE

Dickering with Sexcess

by Steve Warren

If you're in a mixed-gender Gay household on a tight budget, let the Gay men see the first act of *These Men at the Magic Theatre*, and trade places at intermission so the Lesbians can see the second act.

Better yet, quit smoking and use the money you save to let everyone see the whole play, a new comedy by Mayo Simon (who is not related to Neil that I know of, except in talent).

The role of Shelly could have been written for Jane Dornacker, it seems so tailored to her "wild and crazy gal" image; but she chooses to give a somewhat restrained performance, as if to prove she has more than one character — herself — in her.

A self-described "fuck freak,"

Shelly isn't a whore (though she says all women are). She just enjoys sex and doesn't mind if it brings such benefits as a rent payment or keeping the power from being shut off. During a slow period she considers taking on a roommate (male, of course) to share the waterbed in the little house in the canyon where she lives in Southern California.

To her chagrin the first and only applicant is a woman, or what she calls a "girl." "Girls make me nervous," she says. Cloris (Alice Rorvik) would make anybody nervous — a hypertalkative, compulsively domestic wimp who takes notes when anyone talks to her.

Shelly tries to teach Cloris to dress down for sexcess and let

men do all the talking, as the first act passes in a wave of hysterically funny dialogue, mostly about men and their sexual equipment, proclivities and performance.

The second act takes a more serious turn as female bonding works its wiles and the odd pair becomes a couple — of sorts. Is there sex involved? "I don't think that's important," Shelly tells us as part of her ongoing narration.

It's quite a jump from "Today is all you got, baby, so go get some dick before it's too late!" to "All love is the same," but Simon's script handles the transition almost seamlessly. Rorvik is excellent except for an overplayed drunk scene, and Dornacker good, though a bit more subdued than I'd like to see her.

After the fun of the first act the second is harder to pull off. The plot gets heavier than it



"Don't You Feel Used?" Cloris (Alice Rorvik, r.) asks her more worldly roommate Shelly (Jane Dornacker) about having sex with men. Shelly replies, "That's in high school you feel used!" in a scene from *These Men at the Magic Theatre*. (Photo: A. Nomura)

needs to and director Albert Takazaukas is less than a hundred percent successful in making us take the women seriously when we have to.

Barbara DuBois' lighting design must involve twice as many changes as are necessary and too

often calls attention to itself.

But for solid laughs and content Gays can relate to whatever its intent, it's hard to beat *These Men*. ■

These Men
Magic Theatre
Through March 18; 441-8822

Pocket Picking

by John F. Karr

Don't misunderstand that title! I don't think Pocket Opera is fleecing anyone. I do feel its audience deserves to be shepherded to its performances, however, its product being a little closer to mutton than rack of lamb.

I've attended four Pocket Opera performances this season, and enjoyed each. My enjoyment stemmed as much from Music Director and translator Donald Pippin's witty narration and excellent taste in infrequently or never performed scores as it did from the advice of a Pocket Opera fan, playwright and sometime-critic Robert Chesley, who advised me to leave my criticism home. "This is family; it's for fun."

Indeed it is. Musical purists will be pleased with Pippin's textural fidelity, which includes melodrama, underscoring and every last note, but they may also be displeased by a process, undoubtedly not purposeful, I've dubbed "pippinizing."

The operas and operettas performed all come out sounding pretty much the same, regardless of national origin or date of composition. I don't think a reduction in orchestral forces or a droll approach to the story should result in this homogenization. Perhaps Pippin, who translates every show into English, coaches the singers and orchestra, conducts from the piano, writes and speaks the narration and presumably provides the minimal stage direction, has spread himself thin. An opera's individual style should be as integral as its notes.

But I'm being critical, and whenever I let up I enjoy the show. Despite moves to increasingly larger theatres, seasons as opposed to sporadic performances, a board of directors and considerable advertising, Pocket Opera does not claim to be anything other than a local band of music fanatics who have a swell time bringing delectably rare scores to our ears. It's true that the more unknown the work, the greater the audience's enjoyment, but discovery and home-spun fun are the Pocket's point. The Callas clique and the Sutherland shills should stay home. Stick that Leyla Gencer or Magda Olivero pirate in your pocket and Enjoy.

★ ★ ★

Pocket Opera opened this season with Donizetti's *Maria Padilla*. Its convoluted story was obviously stitched to order for the original cast, who must have been stupendous for the vocal

demands made are great. It's a stunningly inventive score, and received a rousing performance. Offenbach's full-length *Bridge of Sighs* is a true crowd-pleaser, and Pippin got those ensembles rolling along in a Rossinian high that was infectious. Smetana's *The Two Widows* was next and was an exciting revelation. Nothing at all happens in its first act and the music is *fabulous* — lying somewhere between *Tzar und Tzimmerman* and *Emmerich Kalman*. Offenbach's heartfelt *La Perichole* had its share of pippinized panache, finding the sweet sentiment most people ignore in Offenbach without slighting the show's sprightly side.

The reduced orchestra is dependably valiant and capable, and Pippin himself a unique and priceless narrator. What a wry wit he is — his comments ought to be published for continuous at-home laughs. The fact that he's uncomfortable as hell, twitching to outdo Ed Sullivan and gasping for breath like a fish with its gills taped shut, adds a masochistically wicked merriment. Will he get the next punchline out?

The singers range from good to excellent; the occasional appearance of scintillating Francesca Howe (in *The Two Widows*, *Don Pasquale* and *Giulio Cesare* this season) is nearly a disservice, for she's too much better than her compatriots. But regulars Wendy Hillhouse, Baker Peebles, Mark Jones, Timothy Driesel, and others have their sterling qualities, and newcomer Iris Fraser (Maria Padilla) is hot, as is handsome Lee Velta, a matinee idol of some voice and charm.

Most are untrained on the stage, and either need a director or less direction, for they fall back on attitudes and posturing. Just the music would be better. And why not smaller theatres and a narrator comfortable with performing? Pippin's precious lines deserve Noel Coward, at least.

If you don't try to make a silk purse out of a whole cloth pocket, you'll have a good time at Pocket Opera. For a taste, try the *Don Pasquale*. Don't miss this season's ending repeat of *The Two Widows*; it'll hook you. After that, it's family style. Eat what you're served. Most of the chops are good. ■

Coming Up: The Merry Wives of Windsor, Feb. 19, Alcazar; Don Pasquale, Feb. 24, Herbst; Der Freischütz, Feb. 26 and March 18, Alcazar; Giulio Cesare, March 2, Herbst; Schubert's The Consulators, March 11, Alcazar; The Two Widows, April 21, Julia Morgan Theatre, Berkeley. 392-4400.

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An having a wonderful time
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done anywhere else! Oh well
Blame it on Rio!
Jose Jennifer

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FILM CLIPS

REVIEWS BY MICHAEL LASKY AND STEVE WARREN

The Dresser

Power Behind the Throne

As the radio reports the progress of World War II and Tom Courtenay takes his first mining steps, we wonder whether *The Dresser* is "to be or not to be," echoing Mel Brooks' recent version of that Ernst Lubitsch comedy, another story of "Mary Noble, Backstage Fag."

Well, it is and it isn't. Courtenay's title character is more central to this story of a second-rate theatrical troupe making the show go on through wartime than James Haacke's was to *To Be . . .*, but his Gayness is less important.

The Dresser is the story of every subordinate, be it secretary, sergeant or what-have-you, who was ever responsible for the success of his or her "superior." Norman (Courtenay) serves Sir (Albert Finney) not only as dresser but everything from administrative assistant to wet nurse. He's had the job for 16 years and still gets neither respect nor reward, just the satisfaction of knowing he's responsible every time Sir gets through a performance.

Despite its universal theme, *The Dresser* will have limited appeal outside of Anglophones with greasepaint in their veins. Critics, masochistic by nature, are praising it because it contains a scathing anti-critic remark.

By that standard, Gays should love it — there must be a dozen digs at us. Sir puts down everything and everyone, from another actor's Lear ("I was pleasantly disappointed") to the meager company that's been left

him during the war: ". . . naught but old men, cripples and nancy-boys." His cracks about Gays to Norman are made with unthinking but unintentional cruelty, like housewife talking to her maid about Blacks. Write at least some of it off to "the good old days."

The war not only makes it difficult to get good help, but results in theatres being bombed and air raids threatening to interrupt performances. Sir has a strong survival instinct, despite his failing health and spirit, that takes over once Norman is able to get him on stage, and doesn't let up until the curtain is down and he's taken his bows in the manner of the "Dying Swan" of Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo.

The Dresser is an actors' picture, and impeccable from that

standpoint. Finney's ham is the kind the Old Testament warned us against. He leaves no scenery unchewed; and submerged in costume and makeup that would allow most actors to coast, he proceeds to overwhelm them.

Courtenay's role is more subtle (*World War II* was more subtle!). His stereotypical Gay mannerisms irritated me, perhaps because of their accuracy, to the point where I didn't enjoy watching him; but that's not to say he doesn't do an excellent job with the part as written (by Ronald Harwood, from his play) and directed (by Peter Yates).

Although I was disappointed in *The Dresser* overall, I have to recommend it for Finney and dozens of delicious bits of dialogue. ■

(Regency 3) S. Warren



"What, Will These Hands Ne'er Be Clean?" Tom Courtenay (l.) serves as the bather as well as *The Dresser* to Albert Finney.

Blame It on Rio

Daughters and Lovers

The movies have changed our image of Latin America. Take Brazil, for instance. Once Fred and Ginger went Flying Down to Rio to sing and dance. Even just a few years ago hardcore romantics could leave the theatre remembering the romance and humor of *Dona Flor and Her Two Husbands*, the music and color of *Bye Bye Brazil*; but Pixote destroyed the last of our illusions, rubbing our noses in the country's poverty and crime.

Blame It on Rio throws us joyously back to the days of picture postcard locales for music-laden romantic comedies. Old master Stanley Donen applies the formula relentlessly, assisted by a strong cast, a good script, and Brazil itself. The beach boys and (top-

less) girls alone should fill theatres, especially in areas with a severe winter to escape from.

The plot is spiced with modern concerns. Marries Michael Caine and his just-divorcing best friend Joseph Bologna take their teenage daughters to Rio de Janeiro on vacation. A little moonlight, some native drums, and Caine easily succumbs to Bologna's child/woman, promising newcomer Michelle Johnson.

Caine hides his guilt about as well as Jerry Falwell hides his bigotry, but Bologna doesn't suspect what's going on under his nose until no more humor can be milked from the situation. Some of the gags have been in mothballs for 30 years but still work beautifully. The resolution is neither as simple as kiss-and-make-up nor as complex as real life, but if you've been having a good time until then you'll accept it.

Blame It on Rio should drag a few people out of the revival houses to see a modern travel fantasy that travels first class. ■ ■ ■

Blame It on Rio is one of the first four attractions at the new Galaxy, opening this weekend at Sutter and Van Ness. A preview peek at the theatre found good projection (though framed so as to cut off a bit of the picture) in starkly modern auditoriums, at least two of which are rather large. The seats don't rock; but their backs are slanted at an angle which, while providing ample leg room, makes it very difficult for people to climb over each other getting in and out of rows. There also seems to be less elbow room than I've encountered in movie seats before (and probably less hip room, though I don't require much). I like the exterior better than Herb Caen does. ■

S. Warren

The Lonely Guy

I Want To Be Alone

When Universal Pictures did not offer a critics screening of *The Lonely Guy*, the assumption was that this was another dog for Steve Martin.

Wrong! *The Lonely Guy* is a genuinely funny film, a satire and roasting of loneliness. Anyone who has ever been lonely should find the film, directed by Arthur (Making Love) Hiller, quite amusing. Properly ex-

ploiting Martin's overgrown sense of the absurd and ridiculous, *The Lonely Guy* is set up as a primer of instructions for the lonely guy to cope. Martin buys a dog but finds it's not the best company on Saturday night. He gets a fern but tires of one way conversations. He goes to singles bars where the women he talks to want to go to bed, not have long talks or commitment. Finally he meets the perfect woman, played in a delightful comedic turn by Judith Ivey. But she is afraid that it's too perfect and runs off with the peren-

One Night Stands

Films of Gay Interest This Coming Week

by Michael Benzry

Friday, February 17: (Castro) Bob Fosse musicals, Cabaret and Sweet Charity. Whores, bi's, and gold-bricklers.

Friday-Saturday, February 17-18: (Red Victorian) Querelle. Brad Davis is a sailor seeking masculine lust in Fassbinder's expressionistic movie of the Genet novel.

Tuesday, February 21: (UC Theatre)



Going to the Dogs? Hardly. Steve Martin's new comedy pleased reviewers — the dog in Martin's bed is for company.

nially popular guy, portrayed with grandly offensiveness by singer Steve Lawrence.

Poking fun at transient relationships, suicide, and desperation, *The Lonely Guy* is pure cathartic black comedy. Based on a book by Bruce Jay Friedman and adapted by Neil Simon and two well-practiced TV sitcom writers, the film breaks down on occasion to the silliness that Martin wallows in. This time, though, it's not stupid silliness, but engaging and good-natured. Steve Martin finally has hit upon a hit. ■

(Royal) M. Lasky

FROM FIFTH POSITION

SF's Progressive Pigs Ailey's Ailing Nightclub

KEITH WHITE

Elisa Monte's *Pigs and Fishes* is the most provocative work the San Francisco Ballet has offered since acquiring Jiri Kylian's *Forgotten Land* last season. *Pigs and Fishes* isn't a masterpiece; neither was *Forgotten Land*. But they are the most genuinely progressive moves I have seen the company make.

The story goes that some ballerinas from the San Francisco Ballet saw Elisa Monte's *Pigs and Fishes* in the repertory of the Alvin Ailey company while on tour last summer, then promptly asked their director, Michael Smuin, if he would acquire the piece for them. Reportedly, the basis for the request was gender parity in the repertoire; Robert North's *Troy Game*, a dance set for an ensemble of eight male dancers, was scheduled for the 1984 season. The women wanted a new ensemble piece of their own. The request was granted.

refinements of detail, that the San Francisco Ballet girls approached the piece with something like abandon — an easy concentration and freedom of energy that we rarely see on that stage.

Unfortunately, other "modern" pieces on the program were shown to disadvantage in company with a work so genuinely contemporary in spirit. Betsy Erickson's *Pixellage* uses computer graphics projected onto a backdrop against which her essentially classical ballet is performed. A contest between



*Fear and Frilling in Las Vegas. Alvin Ailey described his company's new ballet, *Fontessa and Friends*, as campy. Puhleeez!*

To an almost-rock score for four electric guitars, drums, and bass by Glenn Branca ("The Ascension," 1980), *Pigs and Fishes* is formally structured in traditional, geometric staging, relying heavily on unison dancing for the strength of its images. There is an abandoned, introspective solo dance to the first movement of the composition and an ensemble dance for the second. From a certain distance it looks like a very advanced aerobics class; on closer inspection the loose, repetitive movement suggests a multiplicity of primitive images: perhaps work, or even worship. The movement is so unlike ballet, so resistant to

dance and film will almost always be won by the film, and Erickson's piece is no exception. The stage picture is confused by so much going on at once, and my greatest pleasure in watching it again was the incestuous charm of Linda Montaner and Julian Montaner, cast together as partners in adagio. (I've known married men and women who couldn't dance together; that siblings succeed to this degree is somehow unthinkable.)

Nothing very contemporary or exciting was found in the men's piece, *Troy Game*, a series of solos and pranks, set mostly to Brazilian Folk Music (an odd choice, but it works well

enough). The "boys will be boys" stereotypes that provide the only real amusement of the dance look dated and uncomfortable, and the brief, revealing costumes reminded me of baby clothes. Perhaps the men in the company should have been allowed to select their own ballet as well. They're working awfully hard in *Troy Game* with minimal results.

Michael Smuin's *Scherzo*, also back from last season, gained some distinction from both the programming and the casting, the Montaner-Maier-Dickson group. Ordinarily a piece to be considered a filler on a program offering more significant works, *Scherzo* won this time by default.

The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre is, on its 25th Anniversary Tour, a beautiful company of dancers which seems to be having the same repertoire difficulties that all the major companies are in. During the two evenings I saw of the Ailey's seven Berkeley performances, there were a number of entertaining moments, but only one new dance of real distinction.

Suite Otis (George Faison), *The Stackup* (Talley Beatty) and *Fontessa and Friends* (Louis Johnson) were all more or less glorified nightclub acts. Though they were danced wonderfully, I was disappointed that three of our most important Black choreographers were represented by such lightweight fare. *Fontessa and Friends* was truly campy and *The Stackup* seemed to summarize New York street life in the '70s — sex, drugs and disco — with the excitement and intensity one associates with Talley Beatty's work. *Suite Otis*, is so full of worn out Black stereotypes that it no longer seem to belong in this repertory.

It seems fortunate that Blues Suite and Revelations were included on this tour, as Alvin Ailey's premieres were disappointing. ISBA, to music by George Winston, was a colorful and predictable modern dance fantasy. Precipice, a statement on the sixties Rock scene originally set on the Paris Opera Ballet, appears to combine flashy production elements with less-than-interesting movement, as though the dancers on which the work was set had limited modern and jazz dance capabilities. The production, on loan from the French company, is lavish, but does not compensate for the lack of choreographic interest.

Inside, Ulysses Dove's solo for Donna Wood, rose above everything else on the opening night program, and establishes Dove as one of the more promising choreographers to emerge recently. Inside is a nervous, at times agonized reflection on the pain and joy of romantic love. Its movement vocabulary is eloquently post-modern; detailed, demanding, and relentless. Donna Wood's performance was extraordinary.



*The Girls Get Off. So unlike ballet, so resistant to refinement, the freedom of *Pigs and Fishes* elicited happy abandon from its dancers.*

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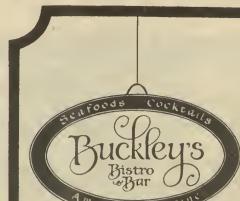
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SPORTS

TG WEDNESDAY NBL

JERRY R. DE YOUNG

TGWNBL Bowler Presented Cable Car Award

On the balmy evening of February 4, the Tenth Annual Cable Car Awards Ceremony unfolded before an exuberant audience of more than 1200 people at Japantown Center Theatre. There were three nominees within the sports field sitting at the TBWNBL table: Mal Garcia, nominated for Outstanding Contributions to Athletics; and Grady Clark, and Aubrey Palmer, nominated for Outstanding Sportsman of the Year—Bowling. We felt each designee deserved recognition by the Gay Community for his contribution and achievements over the past year. Only two, however, could qualify for awards. While we bowlers enthusiastically supported the persons who received awards for other sports, our hearts and minds anxiously awaited the announcement of the winners' names in the two categories cited above.

Mal did not receive the award in his category (he did, however, merit it last year), but much to our delight, Grady did win in his category. The entire audience demonstrated its enthusiastic approval through its jubilant ovation.

Over the years, Grady Clark has epitomized the highest ideals

of bowling sportsmanship, and he is the ideal embodiment of this year's Cable Car Awards theme, "Outstanding." Sincerest congratulations, Grady, your league is so very, very proud of you.

Another award to keep an eye on is the 10,000 total-pin-count certificate that is presented in our league once each season. The recipient will surely be one of the following high rollers. The standings represent total pins as of February 8, 1984.

1. R. Peterson 9,394
Japantown Bowling Bombers
2. R. Mallin 9,327
Pilsner Pot Lockers
3. R. McKay 9,104
Stallion Stampede
4. K. Ray 9,021
Pilsner Pot Lockers
5. R. McGarry 8,985
Pilsner #4
6. T. Sipple 8,955
Japantown Bowling Bombers
7. J. De Young 8,940
Pendulum Swingers
8. B. Rolison 8,861
Pilsner II
9. R. Squires 8,526
Pilsner #4
10. S. Christian 8,516
Japantown Bowling Bombers
11. L. Gundel 8,139
Pilsner #4

The 10,000 TPC winner will be announced in my next column. Do you have a favorite?

Sports Clubs

Frontrunners. Sunday, February 19: Lake Merritt, Oakland - 5 or 10 km. from I-580 Freeway take Grand Avenue exit, turn right to white columns at head of lake, between Grand Avenue and Lakeshore Drive. Carpool: meet at northeast corner of Market and Church (Safeway parking lot) at 9 AM, Monday, February 20.

Special Holiday Run - up to 6.5 miles (100 blocks). Meet at McLaren Lodge, Golden Gate Park. Both runs begin at 10 AM.

Different Spokes Bicycle Club. Saturday 18 and Sunday 19: Decide and rides meet at McLaren Lodge, Golden Gate Park, 1 PM, Saturday and 10 AM Sunday.

S.F. Track and Field. Sunday, February 19: Practice at SF State U begins at 11 AM.

Finally, here they are! The fantastic 200+ bowlers of 2/8/84.

1. A. Stenson (PWIL) 215 237
2. R. Mallin (PPLrs) 235
3. B. Matthews (S.Inspn.) 202 224
4. M. Mautz (Grady's) 222 212
5. L. Kramer (PB) 222
6. B. Rolison (P-II) 219
7. K. Ray (PPLrs) 208 215 202
8. B. Wood (S.Stmpd.) 209
9. B. Rowe (SHTrs) 208
10. R. Squires (P-4) 204
11. R. Bremner (PWIL) 203
12. R. Spencer (S.Inspn.) 202
13. J. Rogowski (PB) 201
14. B. Shandra (Grady's) 200

Rumor has it that 200+ games have become so common in the mighty TGWNBL that on Wednesday evenings a person has to be assigned to the speaker system of Park Bowl just to announce them! Keep it up you guys — IGBO Seattle is not far away.

ed. Bracco Distributing was honored for their continuing support of the sports community. Cliff Wilson swept the "Outstanding Sportsman" in Softball over such notables as Rick Brattin, Ed Dones, David Bouteille, Glen Burke and Mike Gray. That wouldn't be a bad team either!

A quick note about fundraisers. Saturday mornings at 10 AM the Rawhide will put you through a "stretch course" for a patry \$3. This will help you and support the Rawhide team. I personally do not need this course 'cause it can't stretch any further.' The Vagabond is having a 5,000 Tournament and I suggest you call the bar for various dates. The Kokpit and Googies are doing those raffles, so watch out!

The Rookies team is back again and will be handled by the Executive Board. Please contact the Commissioner Bob Doccia for the practice dates and times.

Next league meeting, 12 noon, March 11 at the Pendulum.

Racquetball League

The first meeting of a proposed Racquetball League was held on January 26. The meeting was well attended and the enthusiasm generated gives excellent hope that the league will be a success.

A second meeting of the proposed racquetball league will take place on Thursday, February 23, 7:30 PM. All who are interested in participating should call Wref Fulton for additional details and the location of the meeting. His number is 431-9230; call weekdays after 4:30 PM or all day on weekends. If you are interested in being a part of this new league it is important that you attempt to make this next meeting.

SCOREBOARD

TAVERN GUILD LEAGUES

TEAM STANDINGS AND PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

SUNDAY	
SA FRANCISCO BUSINESS WOMEN'S LEAGUE	
Week 17 of 24 - as of 2/5/84	
League average: 694	
1. Rub a Dub Scrub	11 1
2. Peg's	9 3
3. Cole Valley Graphics	8 1/2 3 1/2
4. Mabel's of SF	8 4
5. No Money Down	8 4
6. Artemis I	6 6
7. Mona Tong Realty	6 6
8. Amelias	5 7
9. Artemis II	4 8
10. Maud's Squad	3 1/2 8 1/2
11. Natural Snacks	2 10
12. You See Flowers	1 11

High Scratch Game

Virginia Brusco	268
Sara Lewinstein	252
Joan Shepard	246

High Scratch Game

John Rogowski	269
Keith Ray	266
Randy Peterson	255

High Scratch Series

Joan Shepard	645
Bernice Straub	634
Velda Gooden	622

High Scratch Series

Keith Ray	655
Rob Mallin	639
Adrian Stenson	633

High Scratch Series

MONDAY	
TAVERN GUILD LEAGUE	
(Week 14 of 22 - as of 1/30/84)	

League average: 699

1. Renegade Dance Bar	38 1/2 17 1/2
2. Grand Central Station	37 19
3. Twin Peaks	36 20
4. Park Bowl	34 22
5. Stables Also	34 22
6. Men's Room	32 24
7. S.F. Gym	32 24
8. Pilsner Pick-ups	30 26
9. Crystal Sprg+olats	29 27
10. Pend. 4 Aces & Spade	28 28
11. New Image	28 28
12. The Sus-spencers	28 28
13. Pendulum #1	27 29
14. Body Center	30 30
15. The Deluxe	25 31
16. Stables	25 31
17. Perfect Petals	24 1/2 31 1/2
18. Eagle Creek Saloon	22 1/2 33 1/2
19. Galileo	22 34
20. Ethel Mertz Mem.	21 1/2 34 1/2
21. Pilsner I	21 35
22. La Mediterranea	15 41

High Scratch Game

Tim Hagerman	244
Craig Clevenger	243
Al Welinski	243
Gere Cooksey	206
Jackie Tingle	187
Donna Gecewicz	178

High Scratch Series

Hank Givan	637
Scott Mower	633
Rob Mallin	627
Gere Cooksey	527
Jackie Tingle	490
Donna Gecewicz	460

High Scratch Series

WEDNESDAY	
TAVERN GUILD LEAGUE	

(Week 18 of 24 - as of 2/8/84)

League average: 738

1. Jpnwn Bowl. Bombers	48
2. Pinheads	41

High Scratch Game

Al Welinski	244
Mark Platiss	225
Roger Spencer	223
Raymond Hearne	223
Don Penniman	223
Patsy Wilson	216
Mary Grimm	213
Cathy Patterson	205

High Scratch Series

Raymond Hearne	616
Mark Platiss	616
Al Welinski	582
Mary Grimm	575
Patsy Wilson	558
Cathy Patterson	554

Bowling scores are compiled by Jerry R. De Young.

WOMEN'S BUSINESS BOWLING

Top Scores Remain Unchallenged

The San Francisco Women's Business Bowling League opened the second half of league play with 12 teams entered in the all women's Sunday, 6 PM league at Park Bowl.

Joan Shepard rolled her first 600 series with a 645 and currently holds the title as season High Scratch Series. Virginia Brusco's 268 scratch game still stands as the league High Scratch Game. With several weeks of bowling, these top leaders' scores still remain a challenge for other league bowlers.

In addition to regular league play, officers Maria Sotelo and Dolores Swoyer are actively

recruiting teams for participation in the 1984 IGBO tournament in Seattle, Washington, May 24-May 28. The SF Women's Bowling League recently became one of the first all women league participants in the United States and Canada. They are looking forward to sending at least three teams to the tournament. Any interested bowler may contact league officers on Sunday night before March 16.

The league will continue their Sunday night bowling until April. Spectators, friends and interested women bowlers are encouraged to visit Park Bowl for an evening of competition and fun.

Britt Trumbull



Smash Bash. Park Bowl's Red Bash proved to be a popular party — bowling, music, costume, even celebrities! Several bowlers were joined by Sylvester. (Photo: Rink)

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RIVETS

Home on the Range

TOM ROGERS

It's been one of those weeks which always seem to follow a high-charged one. Sorta like a stretch of Interstate 5 — although there was traffic in the fast lane, there was plenty of room for more. Easy to fall asleep on that freeway. I missed the turn-off for the CMC Open Meeting at Chez Mollet last Thursday and the Constantines MC Open Meeting at the Eagle on Friday. I did pull in for a pit-stop at the Arena after dinner at The Ambush. Tit-stop, of course, translates to the monthly Bare Chest Contest at the Arena. The search last Thursday night focused on the man who will grace the March 1985 spot on the bar's calendar. The judges had the good taste to pick a winner from a group that ranged from a hot and rugged German youth in town on vacation, to a guy modeling attitude, his young body, lots of diamond rings and leather. The latter combination is what you call a design conflict. In a So/M setting, even the glint of too much steel is suspicious on leather. The winner was Miles Mitchell, a bartender at the Sausalito Inn, who promptly donated his winnings (\$100) to the SF AIDS Fund. He was closely followed in the voting by Steve Cutner, newly here from England, who won 1st Runner-up. Their tits were glorious, and their easy, natural smiles were like beacons beaming the light of well-balanced self-confidence. It all made for a fun evening for the crowd that jammed the place, with merciless emceeing that targeted not only the contestants but people in the audience as well.

I not only missed turn-offs on that freeway referenced above, but didn't sleep the whole week due to fast lane cruising. I wasn't helped at all by a book my lover gave me for Valentine's Day called *2201 Fascinating Facts*. I cracked it open to see just how fascinating it was. The first thing that jumped out at me from the inside flap of the cover was the following:

"Did you know that in 1740 a cow was found guilty of sorcery in France and publicly hanged?" I didn't know that, of course, since most of the cows I know are sacred. And happily, the species did not become subject to widespread suspicion of practicing sorcery as an inherent characteristic. This has allowed us to enjoy continued use of the

species' offerings — like cowboys and leather. .

We talk so much about leather in this space, and yet have never really addressed the product itself. I figured it was time this week for some input.

"Most of it's cowhide, now," said Larry Russo, a familiar face to most black leather retailers around town. He runs one of the busiest leather wholesale operations in San Francisco, the S&H Frank Company. How busy? "Thousands of hides. Thousands," he said during a quick telephone interview.

How is greasy leather made versus garment leather such as Plongee? "The general divisions are created by gauge of thickness. Cowhides are split, then

chrome-tanned and finished with waxes and dyes," he explained. The chrome-tanning process takes about two weeks.

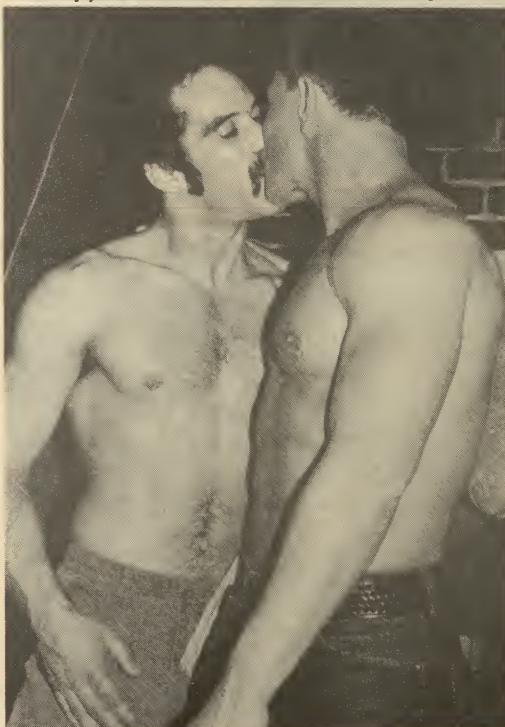
"In the case of greasy leather, it is simply saturated with waxes and oils. It's usually the same gauge as Latigo," he said. (Greasy leather is most commonly found So/M in the form of Engineer Boots. Latigo is most often used for belts and slings.)

Two other divisions of leather, according to Russo, are harness leather and garment leather. Both these are gauged for their function. One other gauge is Plongee, that super-thin garment leather that is rumored to be from the hides of Japan's Kobe beef. Kobe beef is massaged and fed beer for maximum tenderness of the meat. Seems to follow that the hide should be given similar marketing.

"Most leather is from the U.S., South America, and Canada," said Russo. "It's generally held that the Canadian product is best, with a smoother, shiny finish after processing."

Two final, important facts: the price of leather is going back up this year; and the leather that you own needs lubrication as regularly as you do. Neets Foot Oil, Tana, Dubin and several other products do the job well. Check with your favorite retailer.

* * *



Tit to tit tete te. First and second place winners in the Arena contest share a congratulatory kiss — but they would probably have kissed even if they'd lost! (Photo: R. Pruzan)

CLUB NEWS

The Barbary Coasters MC have all but completed the preparations for their 18th Annual Motorcycle Awards Program to be held at California Hall on

Saturday, February 18. Awards are to be presented to winners in fifteen categories of judging that include Rider of the Year, Best Weekend Run, Best Camp Site, and Buddy Rider. A wide range

(Continued on next page)

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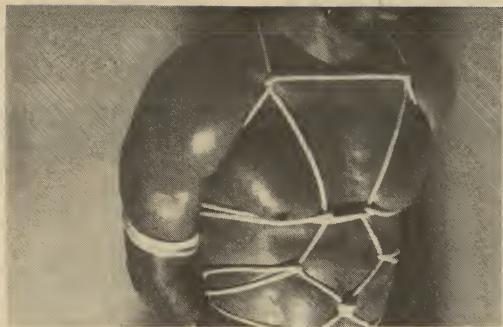
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"Drummer" magazine (January '84) calls Slave and Master Video "absolutely authentic SM video."



(Continued from previous page) of awards for best social and theatrical events comprise most of the rest of the categories. The event starts at 7 PM for cocktails; the show is at 8 PM. Tickets are available at many So/M bars for \$8, or you can buy one at the door for \$12. There'll be a couple of parties earlier in the afternoon: The Warlocks MC's Annual Awards Party at the Eagle and the SF Cheaters MC's Cherry Blossom Festival at the Watering Hole. SFGDI Winners Circle will follow the event.

★ ★ ★

The Constantines MC will host its annual Mix 'N' Match celebration at 10 Rodgers Place (M&M Pavilion) on Friday, February 17, from 8-10 PM. Five bucks at the door gets you two free drinks and food.

★ ★ ★

Go Hug your pet man. ■

T. Rogers

Karl's Calendar

Thursday, 2/16: Tommy Rose Party. (Queen of Hearts candidate). Febe's, 8 PM.

Friday, 2/17: Constantines' Mix 'N' Match. M&M Pavilion, 10 Rodgers St., 8 PM, \$10.

Saturday, 2/18: Cherry Blossom Festival. Cheaters MC. Watering



First Place They Go When They Get Off The Plane. German native Hanns hadn't been in San Francisco three hours when he entered the Arena contest; the imported teaser has a classic face, but had his tits trounced by homegrown beauties. (Photo: R. Pruzan)

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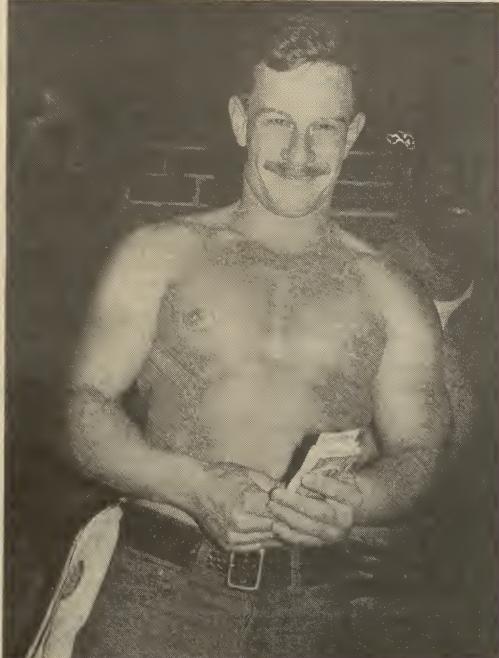
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Fun for Fund. Miles Mitchell donated his First Prize cash award in the Arena's Bare Chest Contest to the AIDS Fund. Thanks to Miles for brawn, beauty, . . . and brain! (Photo: R. Pruzan)



Eight Out of Nine. Here's all the contestants of last week's contest. Note that First Runner-up Steve Cutner (center) manages to place without wearing levis or leather, proving costume does not make the man. (Photo: R. Pruzan)

PORN CORNER

Zen to Zeal

RON BLUESTEIN

Attendance is declining at San Francisco pornographic theatres and arcades. Although everyone enjoys pornography now and then, the number of sincerely dedicated pornophiles in any one locale is limited, just as the number of, say, dedicated Chaucerians in any single locale is limited. A pornophile, for those of you whose Greek is weak, is someone who, when you say that you prefer people to pictures, bestows on you the sort of smile usually reserved for infants on respirators, three-legged dogs or waiters. It is simply a matter of mild misanthropy: with pornography you can have your cake and not even have to meet it, let alone eat it, which is just fine with me.

It is the practice in most retail businesses to sell the product that is advertised. If you sell rugs and want to make some money, you try to provide the best rugs around. In their effort to augment slackening business, pornographers have grasped every expedient from go-go girls to go-go boys. The idea that a pornographer sells pornography appears not to have occurred to them.

For example, I descended on the spacious and empty Cinema Theatre last week, attracted by the marquee promising a film from France which I had never seen. I showed my press card to the manager. "Are you the guy who's always coming here for free?" "Well, not all the time . . ." I began, only to be interrupted by the cashier. "That's him. That's the guy." I felt like I was on the police lineup. Why should he let me in, the manager wanted to know, what had my paper done for his theatre? I explained that although I had done nothing for the Cinema Theatre, those who had measured up to Ronnette's stringent requirements for decent porn had been amply rewarded by receipts from my readers, but that was all right — while I enjoy, I do not, thank God, depend on the largesse of others and brandished a five dollar bill (I would not tell him it was my last) in his face. He relented. In the theatre I discovered a screen so indistinct that I could not tell if it was a couple fornicating or an aerial view of Bermuda, or four men and some poor betasseled lass on stage perfunctorily dancing. I suppose that her movement lulled the men to sleep more efficiently. I left before I

too joined the Land of Lethe. "Not your scene, huh," the hostile manager said. I thought of informing him that dancing naked women were an innovation — in 1968, but I decided not to waste my breath. He knows what he's offering is about exciting as a plate of baby shit. A dancing naked woman is a lot cheaper to rent than a new pornographic movie.

But not cheaper than an old pornographic movie. I managed to pass up another Marilyn Chambers movie (at this point, the same Marilyn Chambers movie, *Irresistible*) at the Bijou, walked out of another John Holmes movie at the Gaiety, and nearly fainted dead away when my seat at the Mini-Adult spoke to me. Madonna mia, it was not a miracle at all, not the chair which had spoken but the drunk curled as comfortably as a cobra beneath it.

Shaken but undaunted, I abandoned the movies for the rest of the week and decided to seek sexual release from more static but less time-consuming porno magazines. In my early adulthood I was quite attached to some magazines and ported around a trunkful of my favorites from apartment to apartment and city to city until I discovered in California zen detachment and magazine trade-in stores. For some time I've been accustomed to taking my previously perused porno to the Green Door near 6th and Mission. While they have piles of magazines, one quickly discovers how many of them — with titles like "Two Hundred Twats," "Teeny Tits," or just plain "Boobs" — are not exactly aimed at the Gay

traffic. Even so, with two hours, twenty-five cigarettes, and much patience the serious smut-lover can find a few titillating titles.

Imagine the dismay of Ronnette when the owner of the Green Door informed me that only two of my twelve trade-ins were worthy of his purchase. This eccentric person explained, when pressed, that they were unpurchaseable because the origin of sale was not his store. The words "whim" and "vagary" seemed to be taking on new definitions even as I stood there. What is a trade-in magazine store if not a terminal for publications with different points of origin? Once again I saved my breath. Talking to him was like talking to the dean of men at my college when he told me I was invited to leave campus in three days after I had desperately jumped into the sack with the assistant dorm counselor. Miffed and mute, I left disgruntled.

And took my trade to The Magazine on Larkin between O'Farrell and Geary, a pleasant store owned by more friendly, not to say less arbitrary, people. Here, at last, our story reaches its happy denouement with this reporter returning *chez lui* with ten (!!!) *Physique Pictorials* from Athletic Model Guild, including the latest, #37, which features their famous latently homosexual heterosexuals in full erectile spread, to paraphrase Gloria Steinem, not to mention magazines in which every male protagonist has facial hair, such as *Hot Bitch*, *Vaginal Passion* (don't worry, her passion was two penises simultaneously), *Copulatin' Coeds*, *Lusty Lovers* (the buy of the day, marked from \$25 to \$3), *Riverboat Orgy*, and, my favorite, *Fuckface*. And all, as they say, for \$19.95.

By chance, my porno pal Dwight called me that night and this ream of smut afforded me the opportunity of testing whether it was my person or my porno which was the object of his sexual interest. Ultimately, it was neither. Ultimately, it was himself, and I have the cumbered mirror, which I think of as an action painting, "Spotlight on Sperm," to prove it. Even though the streaked lines look like shimmering Islamic calligraphy, my saintly roommate, Dee Dee (Divina Despina) DuVin, disapproves. ■

KARRNAL KNOWLEDGE

Stop the Show I Want to Get Off

KARR

I'd like to tell you what happened to my friend last weekend. He complained he was feeling tired, sat down in a chair — and died. No muss, no fuss. Death didn't even make so much of an announcement as a knocking at the door, but whisked silently in and out as if that proverbial door was the revolving sort.

What happened to my friend? He led such a typical life. He worked, visited with friends, sang in the Gay Men's Chorus well enough to be part of the eighteen-voice Chamber Singers, took "recreational" drugs . . . and liked to be fisted. He didn't know it, but during one of those fistings he sustained an internal cut. Days later he hemorrhaged. He bled to death without knowing it, filled up with blood, felt weak, sat down and died.

★ ★ ★

Less than ten years ago, very few people had heard of fistings. Quite suddenly, largely through porno flicks, it became popular, a fairly standard and routine activity. Entire bathhouses sprang

up devoted to fistings. My feelings, obvious from my need to relate the shocking, sad story of my friend, are strong.

Fisting has always existed, sure, but I can see little reason for so many people to be involved in what seems an activity for few. I think peer pressure and the conformist needs of Gay men, who function largely without sexual role models and therefore follow fashion, have led many to an activity they ought not to pursue. Yes, it's quite obvious fistings is possible. It's equally obvious that it's risky. What I'll never understand is how much of fistings is sex and how much is an acting out of rebellion or other psychological drives.

How far do you *need* to go? Are you proving something with your sex life? Proving how free you are? How butch you are? How stupid you are? Just what is excessive behavior? Death don't have to come knocking at the door of many Gay men — they're sending out invitations. ■

ODE TO AN EGYPTIAN URN

You can't always heed All things that you read Such as, "Screw Nefertiti." — It's merely graffiti.

— Woolly

ACT

(Continued from page 20)

this approach would launch one into quibbles. After all, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* was the top-drawer of Las Vegas revues of its day, and just because it's Shakespeare we should not expect more of it than it's worth.

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P-F. Hartmann

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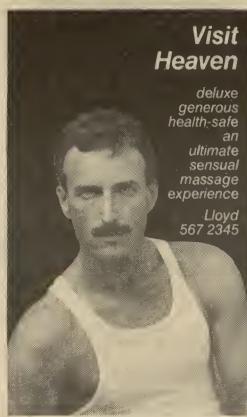
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BAY AREA REPORTER

FEBRUARY 16, 1984 PAGE 29

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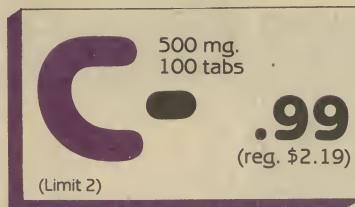
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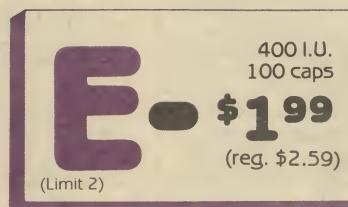
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